SB1631





STATE OF HAWAI'I

HAWAI'I TEACHER STANDARDS BOARD

650 lwilei Road, Suite 201 Honolulu, Hawai'i 96817

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND HOUSING

RE: SB 1631 Relating to Teacher Licensure

Friday, February 6, 2009

DR. JONATHAN GILLENTINE, CHAIRPERSON Hawaii Teacher Standards Board

Chairman Sakamoto and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Teacher Standards Board strongly supports SB 1631 Relating to Teacher Licensure because it seeks to make an important correction to Act 164, Session Laws of Hawaii 2008.

As we prepared our administrative rules for denying, suspending or revoking a teacher's license, our Board found it impossible to comply with Item (d), i.e. notifying the clerk of the court that an individual being tried in court is a teacher because:

- 1. All who teach may not necessarily be licensed. Therefore, the Board would not be able to identify them as "teachers."
- 2. The Board only licenses public school teachers. If a person being tried in court is a private school teacher, we would not be able to identify the person as a teacher.
- 3. The courts, law enforcement agency, and the attorneys handling the trial would be in a better position to determine whether the person being tried is a teacher.

For the above reasons, we ask that you pass out SB 1631 as is.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.