



Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Finance
Wednesday, March 27, 2024, at 2:00 p.m.
By
Stephen Schatz, Executive Director
Hawai'i P-20 Partnerships for Education

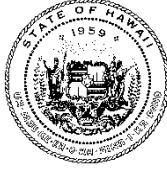
SB2257 SD3 HD I – RELATING TO EDUCATION

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on SB2257 SD3 HD I related to amending Section 302A-803, Hawai'i Revised Statutes.

Hawai'i P-20 Partnerships for Education (Hawai'i P-20) supports SB2257 SD3 HD I, which amends Section 302A-803, Hawai'i Revised Statutes, to include “or high school diploma with comparable education” related to career and technical education (CTE) teacher qualifications and licensing. This amendment would allow the Hawai'i Teacher Standards Board (HTSB), as the agency that determines teacher qualification standards, to consider alternate qualifications for teachers. For example, an Executive Chef with more than 20 years of experience in the culinary industry who has operated and opened numerous fine-dining restaurants but does not have an associate's degree might be permitted to teach high school CTE courses in Culinary if this amendment is passed. This change to the statute has the potential to remove barriers to teacher licensing for career and technical education professionals who have extensive industry experience but lack the minimum associate's degree currently required in statute.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.



STATE OF HAWAII
HAWAII TEACHER STANDARDS BOARD
650 IWILEI ROAD, SUITE 268
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96817

WRITTEN TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

PERSON TESTIFYING: Felicia Villalobos, Executive Director, on behalf of the Hawai'i Teacher Standards Board

DATE: March 27, 2024

TIME: 2:00 pm

LOCATION: Conference Room 308 and Video Conference

TITLE OF BILL: SB2257 SD3 HD1 RELATING TO EDUCATION; HTSB; Career and Technical Education; Education Requirements; Qualified Individuals

PURPOSE OF BILL: Authorizes the Hawai'i Teacher Standards Board to consider qualified individuals with at least an associate's degree or high school diploma with comparable education and coursework, industry experience, and content expertise to teach career and technical education courses.

POSITION: Support

Chair Yamashita, and Members of the Committee;

The Hawai'i Teacher Standards Board (HTSB) supports SB2257 SD3 HD1, relating to education.

We need to support our Career and Technical Education (CTE) pipeline of educators along with our students who require CTE credits to complete their studies. Many students decide not to attend college, and instead choose a viable career in CTE, sometimes referred to as the "trades" that do not require a degree to enter into a career and make a very good living. This bill will help support the highly qualified CTE educators that our students need. Part of understanding the needs of our students, is understanding that they may learn very well from professionals who have worked for many years in their CTE field, despite not having a college degree. These individuals may have attended a technical school, or they may have gone through an apprenticeship to learn their trade. CTE skills are not always learned in college. Although the Hawai'i Teacher Standards Board does believe, and will continue to require, they learn pedagogy of teaching etc., as it is very different to teach someone on the job with one or maybe two apprentices compared to having a classroom of 30 students. However, to support our CTE educators, and those who want to become CTE educators, and to help our students in their endeavors, we support this bill.

CTE programs allow students the opportunity to explore and learn through practical application of academic and technical skills. Many of the job openings today are for positions that do not require a college degree, but they do require the skills for their specific CTE field. By improving the CTE pipeline, we can expand educational and career options for our students while supporting our local economy. We want to provide better support toward graduation for students who are in CTE programs, and this means we need qualified and skilled CTE educators.

The Hawai'i Teacher Standards Board asks your committee to support this bill.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR



KEITH T. HAYASHI
SUPERINTENDENT

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
KA 'OIHANA HO'ONA'AUAO
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

Date: 03/27/2024

Time: 02:00 PM

Location: 308 VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Committee: House Finance

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

Bill Title: SB 2257, SD3, HD1 RELATING TO EDUCATION.

Purpose of Bill: Authorizes the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board to consider qualified individuals with at least an associate's degree or high school diploma with comparable education and coursework, industry experience, and content expertise to teach career and technical education courses. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1)

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) supports SB 2257 SD3, HD1, but defers to the Hawaii Teachers Standards Board as to the implementation of this measure.

The proposed amendment would authorize the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board to exercise more flexibility when considering industry professionals to become licensed teachers in career and technical education courses.

This aligns with the recently adopted Hawaii State Board of Education's Strategic Plan desired outcome of filling all teacher positions with qualified hires.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on SB 2257 SD3, HD1.