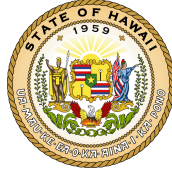


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR



ROY M. TAKUMI
CHAIRPERSON

**STATE OF HAWAII
BOARD OF EDUCATION
PAPA HO'ONA'AUAO**
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

**House Committee on Education
Thursday, March 19, 2026
2:00 p.m.
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 309**

Measure: Senate Bill 3262 SD1, Relating to Education

Purpose of Measure:

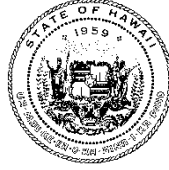
Requires that the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board submit three nominees for its Executive Director to the Board of Education. Requires the Board of Education to appoint an Executive Director from the nominees on the list, subject to advice and consent of the Senate. Effective 3/22/2075.

Aloha Chair Woodson, Vice Chair La Chica, and Members of the Committee:

The Board of Education (Board) respectfully offers comments on Senate Bill 3262 SD1.

Should the Legislature determine in its wisdom that the proposed process for appointing the executive director of the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board is in the public interest, the Board will fulfill its responsibility to carry out the bill's intent.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify on behalf of the Board.



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

March 19, 2026

WRITTEN TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

PERSON TESTIFYING: Mitzie Higa, Licensing Specialist, on behalf of the Hawai'i Teacher Standards Board (HTSB)

DATE: March 19, 2026

TIME: 2:00 PM

LOCATION: Conference Room 309 & Videoconference State Capitol

TITLE OF BILL: SB 3262 SD1 HTSB; BOE; Executive Director; Appointment; Advice and Consent

POSITION: Opposes SB 3262 SD1

Chair Justin Woodson, and Members of the House Committee on Education:

The Hawai'i Teacher Standards Board (HTSB) respectfully opposes SB3262, SD1 relating to education, which would require the board to employ an executive director for a term of up to four years, who shall be appointed by the board of education, **with the advice and consent of the senate.**

There is already a process in place that is prescribed by law pertaining to the hiring and termination of the Executive Director. Hawai'i Revised Statutes clearly states:

§302A-801 f) The board may employ an executive director for a term of up to four years, who shall be appointed by the board of education without regard to chapters 76 and 89; provided that the board shall submit a nominee to the board of education for approval or disapproval; provided further that if the nominee is disapproved, the board shall submit another nominee to the board of education for approval or disapproval. The board may terminate the executive director's contract for cause; provided that the board shall submit the recommendation for termination to the board of education for approval or disapproval.

The Separation of Powers doctrine was established to prevent tyranny from a single branch of government and preserve the integrity of U.S. citizens. **This bill encroaches on this doctrine in that it requires the Board of Education, a part of the Executive Branch, to appoint the Executive Director only upon the advice and consent of the senate. This bill does not allow the Board of Education the autonomy to appoint the Executive Director on their own accord.**

HTSB is tasked by law to establish licensing and certification standards that govern teacher licensing and certification in Hawai'i to ensure that public-school children in Hawai'i are taught by teachers who are qualified to practice the profession of teaching.

This bill removes the Board of Education's decision-making authority to determine who is best qualified to be appointed as the Executive Director of the Hawai'i Teacher Standards Board. This bill also takes away from the Hawai'i Teacher Standards Board (HTSB) the autonomy to nominate whom the HTSB believes will understand the HTSB's mission and vision, will implement the HTSB's decisions, and will fulfill the HTSB's responsibilities, which are to ensure that highly qualified teachers are teaching our students in the public schools.

Therefore, we humbly ask this committee to **oppose** this bill.



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Osa Tui, Jr.
President

Logan Okita
Vice President

Cheney Kaku
Secretary-Treasurer

Andrea Eshelman
Executive Director

TESTIMONY TO THE HAWAI'I HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Item: SB 3262, SD1 – Relating to Education

Position: Support

Hearing: Thursday, March 19, 2026, 2:00 pm, Room 309

Submitter: Osa Tui, Jr., President - Hawai'i State Teachers Association

Dear Chair Woodson, Vice Chair La Chica, and members of the committee,

The Hawai'i State Teachers Association (HSTA) **supports** S.B. 3262, SD1, which seeks to refine the appointment process for the Executive Director of the Hawai'i Teacher Standards Board (HTSB). As an organization representing the interests of educators across the islands, we believe that robust oversight in this selection process is essential for the future of our profession.

The HTSB plays a critical role in our educational ecosystem, directly impacting all teachers statewide as well as new and upcoming educators entering the field. The board's decisions on licensing and standards set the foundation for the quality of instruction in our classrooms.

This measure ensures that the Executive Director is thoroughly reviewed by the Hawai'i State Senate through the advice and consent process. We believe this additional layer of scrutiny is vital to ensure that the individual leading this influential body is properly suited for the responsibilities of the job.

By requiring a list of three nominees and involving both the Board of Education and the Senate, S.B. 3262, SD1 promotes transparency and accountability. This collaborative approach helps guarantee that the HTSB is led by a highly qualified professional dedicated to upholding the highest standards for Hawai'i's educators.

We respectfully request that the committee pass this measure.

Mahalo

SB-3262-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2026 1:30:56 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/19/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hope McKeen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Woodson, Vice Chair La Chica, and members of the committee,

I have spent the last 20 years in Hawai‘i’s public school classrooms. I’ve seen mandates come and go, but one thing remains constant: the quality of our schools depends entirely on the integrity of our teaching standards. I am writing to you today in strong support of S.B. 3262, SD1.

When you’ve been teaching as long as I have, you realize that the Hawai‘i Teacher Standards Board (HTSB) isn't just a bureaucratic office—it is the gatekeeper of our profession. The Executive Director of the HTSB holds the keys to who enters our classrooms and what "quality instruction" looks like for our Keiki.

For too long, leadership appointments can feel like they happen behind closed doors. By requiring a list of three nominees and involving the Board of Education and the Senate, we are treated like the high-level professionals we are. The "advice and consent" process provides a vital layer of public scrutiny. We need to know that the person leading the HTSB has been thoroughly vetted not just for their resume, but for their commitment to Hawai‘i’s unique educational landscape. Ensuring the Executive Director is properly suited through a transparent process protects the stability of our entire licensing system, and holds them accountable to the public.

I’ve dedicated my life to Hawai‘i’s students, and I want to ensure the leaders who govern my license are held to the same high standards I am held to in my classroom every day.

I respectfully urge the committee to pass S.B. 3262, SD1.

Hope Pualani McKeen