



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

**Date:** 03/30/2026

**Time:** 01:00 PM

**Location:** CR 229 & Videoconference

**Committee:** EDU

**Department:** Education

**Person Testifying:** Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

**Title of Bill:** GM657, SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE HAWAII TEACHER STANDARDS BOARD, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, KATINA SOARES, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-2028.

#### **Department's Position:**

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department), on behalf of the Superintendent of Education, respectfully supports the nomination of Dr. Katina M. Soares, as set forth in Governor's Message 657.

Dr. Soares brings over two decades of experience in public education, including her current role as Principal of Molokai High School, where she oversees all aspects of school operations, instruction, student support services, and staff development in a rural school community. Her leadership reflects a strong commitment to student success, school improvement, and fostering a positive and collaborative school culture.

Throughout her career, Dr. Soares has served in a variety of leadership roles, including vice principal, acting principal, counseling department chair, and licensed school counselor. Her background in counseling and educational leadership provides her with a well-rounded perspective on supporting students' academic, social, and emotional needs. She has also demonstrated a sustained commitment to professional growth and system-level improvement through her service on statewide committees and participation in leadership initiatives.

The Department believes Dr. Soares' experience, leadership, and dedication to education make her well-qualified for this nomination, and we are confident she will be a valuable asset in this role.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this nomination.