



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Finance
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By
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HB 492 HD1 – RELATING TO THE HAWAII TEACHER STANDARDS BOARD

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Donald Young, and I serve as Dean of the College of Education at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. Today I am pleased to submit testimony in support of HB 492 HD1.

The Hawai'i Teacher Standards Board (HTSB) serves a vital function in our state being responsible for teacher licensing and monitoring, reviewing licensing standards and license testing, monitoring the accreditation of teacher preparation programs, reporting to the U.S. Department of Education, etc. In addition, HTSB has been responsive to necessary changes and innovations in teacher preparation and licensing, working collaboratively with all programs in Hawai'i that prepare educators.

The increased workload and the ability to continue to be responsive to needs in the field present HTSB with financial challenges. HB 492 HD1 seeks to shift the costs of two positions to the general fund. Such a shift will enable HTSB to remain solvent without raising licensing fees. As personnel costs have continued to rise, HTSB has adjusted by reducing the number of employees to the minimum they now have. Without additional financial support further cuts will be necessary threatening to reduce the vital services HTSB provides.

I therefore urge the committee to support HB 492 HD1.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.