



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Written Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Education and Housing  
February 6, 2009, 1:45 pm, Room 225

by  
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and  
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University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

### **SB 1249 Relating to Teachers**

Chair Sakamoto, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee:

The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa opposes the provisions in SB 1249 Part V calling for the Dean of the College of Education at UH Mānoa to develop a teacher shortage elimination plan. The University does not have the resources to conduct such a study at this time.

Previous data exist that points to strategies for reducing the number of teachers needed, although if one were to compare turnover rates for teachers with other employees in other fields, that rate is not excessive and the numbers have been declining. Perhaps of interest as well is the fact that the problem is not simply one of producing more teachers. It is producing the teachers in the right subject areas who are willing to teach in the needed geographic areas.

The University and College of Education support the mentoring and induction provisions in SB 1249 as the most effective ways reduce teacher rates of leaving the classroom.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on SB 1249.