

Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Education and  
the  
Committee on Higher Education

February 2, 2005

Prepared by

Randy Hitz, Dean  
College of Education  
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

HB 1078: Relating to Education

Thank you for hearing HB 1078, and for this opportunity to testify. The university supports HB 1078.

The legislature has strongly supported national board certification for our public schools teachers, and very recent research is confirming the wisdom of that support. National Board Certified (NBC) teachers out perform other teachers with similar levels of education and experience. Students in classrooms with NBC teachers achieve at higher levels than do other students.

The purpose of HB 1078 is to expand the eligibility for NBC support, and is a bonus to University of Hawai'i teacher educators. The rationale for this is clearly stated in the bill itself, so I will not restate it here.

This small change in the law will cost the state very little, but it has potential to have a profound impact on teacher education in Hawai'i. We currently have one new faculty member preparing for national board certification. We do not expect that many faculty will seek national board certification, but the more that do, the better it will be for our teacher education programs.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

