



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I SYSTEM

TESTIMONY

(Written Testimony)

HB 2552: Relating to Education

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Education

February 4, 2006

by

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

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Chair Takumi, Vice Chair Berg, and Members of the
Committee:

The University of Hawai'i supports the intent of HB 2552.

The University of Hawai'i believes it is important for Hawai'i to have an independent teacher licensing board which can help to ensure that only qualified individuals are allowed to teach in our schools. The board should include professionals who have the knowledge and experience necessary to develop appropriate policies. However, we also see the wisdom of including one person on the board who is not a professional educator.

We note that it is possible now within the current makeup of the board to include at least one lay person. In fact, the Superintendent has appointed a non-educator to serve on her behalf. The BOE representative and the HAIS representative could both be lay appointees if these organizations chose to appoint such individuals.

We strongly recommend that the number of teachers on the board NOT be reduced from six to five. Most professional licensing boards in education follow the recommended policy that a majority of members be practicing classroom teachers.

With regard to the proposed changes on page two, we would point out that this language is probably not necessary. The board already has this authority and, in fact, allows individuals without formal backgrounds in teacher education

to teach in the DOE if fully qualified persons are not available.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

c: HB2552testimony