



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Ways and Means Committee

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By

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HB 18, HD 1, SD 1: Relating to Education

Chair Baker, Vice Chair Tsutsui, and Members of the Committee:

The University of Hawai'i fully supports HB 18, HD 1, SD1, (SSSCR 1067) which authorizes the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board (HTSB) to suspend its policies, rules, and standards when extenuating circumstances require. The bill also enables the board to amend certain fees and set or amend other charges related to the performance of its duties.

This bill recognizes that the HTSB requires flexibility in its operations in dealing with licensing more than 12,000 teachers in the State and enables the Board to suspend its own rules to accommodate extenuating circumstances. Such flexibility will enable the HTSB to act more quickly in issuing licenses, addressing a pressing need in Hawai'i when new graduates and teachers new to Hawaii apply for teaching licenses. Such changes will also enable the Board to act reasonably and responsibly when questions of license equivalence and revocation are considered.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.