



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Judiciary

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By

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HB 18 (HSCR 499): Relating to Education

Chair Waters, Vice Chair Oshiro, and Members of the Committee:

The University of Hawai'i supports HB 18 (HSCR 499), which authorizes the Hawai'i Teacher Standards Board (HSTB) to suspend its policies, rules, and standards when extenuating circumstances require.

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 Hawaii when new graduates and teachers new to Hawai'i 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.