



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Education

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By

Donald B. Young, Interim Dean
College of Education
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

HB 25, HD 1: Relating to Teacher Licensing

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

The University of Hawai'i opposes HB 25, HD1 which requires the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board to pursue full teacher license reciprocity with all other states.

This bill undermines the authority of the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board (HTSB). Many of the functions identified in this bill are already being considered or implemented by the HTSB. Proposed changes in types of teacher licenses and additional ways that teachers can obtain a standard, renewable license, including criteria for accepting licenses from other states with licensing standards equivalent or higher than Hawaii's are currently under public review and will likely be implemented in the next few months.

The profession should be setting the requirements for reciprocity rather than the State arbitrarily accepting full reciprocity with all other states. Is Hawai'i really prepared to accept substandard teachers because they completed a licensure program in another state? HTSB should be allowed to set the criteria by which reciprocity will be granted.

The changes identified in HB 25, HD1 should be referred to the HTSB for consideration and possible inclusion in their proposed changes to administrative rules for teacher licensing. HTSB should also be held accountable for reporting on progress during the 2007–2008 legislative session.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.