

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI‘I SYSTEM LEGISLATIVE TESTIMONY



HB 2368 – RELATING TO EDUCATION

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Education

January 25, 2008 at 2:00pm

by
Donald B. Young, Acting Dean
College of Education
University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Education

January 25, 2008 at 2:00 p.m.

by

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

HB 2368: Relating to Education

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

The University of Hawai'i supports HB 2368, which requires Hawaii teacher licensure requirements to align with Federal ESEA requirements and changes the number of years that the Department of Education can employ a teacher on an emergency basis from four to three years.

The State of Hawaii's 18th Legislature enacted Act 240, which required a license to teach and transferred the authority for setting public school teacher licensing standards from the Department of Education (DOE) to the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board (HTSB), an independent governing body like those that exist for other professions.

The 21st Legislature enacted Act 312, which transferred from the DOE to the HTSB the authority for issuing, renewing, suspending, revoking, and reinstating teacher licenses. Thus, the licensing and employment functions were separated as they are in other states to eliminate the inherent conflict of interest. Since July 1, 2002, the HTSB has been responsible for teacher licensing.

The changes identified in HB 2368 will result in aligning federal and state requirements and reduce confusion in the teacher workforce.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.