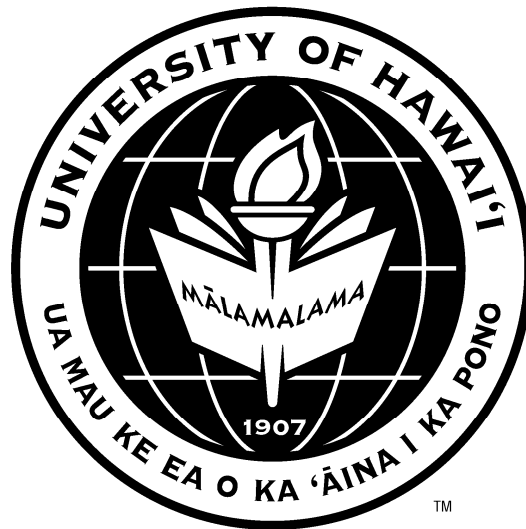


# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI‘I SYSTEM LEGISLATIVE TESTIMONY



## HB 2368, HD1 RELATING TO EDUCATION

Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Labor & Public Employment

February 8, 2008 at 8:30 a.m.

by  
Virginia S. Hinshaw, Chancellor  
Presented by  
Christine Sorensen, Dean  
College of Education  
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

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**HB 2368, HD1: Relating to Education**

Chair Sonson, Vice Chair Nakasone, and Members of the Committee:

The University of Hawai'i supports HB 2368, HD1, which directs the Department of Education (DOE) and Hawai'i Teacher Standards Board (HTSB) to work collaboratively to align state and federal teacher licensure requirements; reduces the years an individual may be employed as a teacher on an emergency basis from 4 to 3; allows unlicensed teachers hired on an emergency basis before the effective date of the Act to become licensed no later than four years from the date of their employment.

The State of Hawai'i'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 DOE to the 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, HD1 will result in aligning federal and state requirements and reduce confusion in the teacher workforce.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.