



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I SYSTEM

## TESTIMONY

S.B. 910: RELATING TO TEACHER LICENSING AND  
CREDENTIALING STANDARDS

Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Education and Military Affairs  
and Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs

February 16, 2005

By

Randy Hitz  
Dean  
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Chairs Sakamoto & Hanabusa, Vice Chairs Hooser & Hee, and  
Members  
of the Committees:

The University of Hawai'i supports the intent of S.B. 910.

We are aware of the severe shortage of teachers in Hawai'i, and we understand the particular need for more teachers of Hawaiian descent. Support to help Native Hawaiians pass the required teacher licensing examinations will be useful.

We do not support the proposed changes in subsection (b) of Section 302A-802. It is not the role of a licensing board to "develop and implement" programs. In fact, doing so would constitute a conflict of interest. The licensing board, the Hawai'i Teacher Standards Board (HTSB), is responsible for approving teacher preparation programs in Hawai'i. The proper role of that board is to create licensing standards and teacher education program standards that accommodate a wide variety of programs. Judging from the large variety of alternative routes to teacher education provided by the University of Hawai'i, and other universities in the state, it is clear to us that the HTSB is already sufficiently flexible to accommodate any viable teacher education alternative.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on this bill.

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