



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

TESTIMONY

S.B. 1642, SD1 (SSCR588): RELATING TO TEACHERS

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

February 28, 2005

By

Randy Hitz
Dean
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

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Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Tsutsui, and Members of the
Committee:

The University of Hawai'i strongly supports the intent of
S.B. 1642 SD1 (SSCR588) which is to address the teacher
shortage through a comprehensive set of initiatives
including better teacher recruitment, enhanced teacher
education capacity, improved professional development and
working conditions for teachers, and tax incentives.

In earlier testimony, we summarized some of the ways the
University has attempted to help address the teacher
shortage. We will not repeat that here. We will state our
support or opposition for each initiative in S.B. 1642 SD 1
with little elaboration except in those areas which directly
impact the University.

Sections 2 and 3: Hawai'i teacher cadet program. The
University supports the intent of these sections and commits
to continued cooperation in the initiative.

Sections 4 and 5: Associate of Arts in Teaching

The University supports the appropriation of funds to
increase the capacity of Leeward Community College to offer
an Associate of Arts in Teaching degree. Such funding is a
part of the Board of Regents approved Biennium Budget
request. The University recognizes, however, that the
associate degree is not intended to prepare individuals for
immediate licensure. Rather, it provides more students at
the lower-division level with classroom-based experience
intended to enhance their readiness for success in
baccalaureate or post-baccalaureate teacher education
programs.

Sections 6 and 7: Admission to the College of Education

The University is willing to conduct a study of the advisability of admitting students into the College of Education in their freshman year.

Sections 8 and 9: Support for the College of Education

The University supports the proposed increases in funding for the College of Education for fiscal years 2006 and 2007. We also support the proposed increases to fiscal year 2015. However, we recommend the following phrase be added to the last sentence of section 8. "so long as recruitment to the college warrants the need for additional faculty."

Technical recommendations: We also note that the term "college" should replace the term "school". The words "teacher students" in section 9 should be omitted.

The University supports the intent of section 10 to create a forgivable loan program for teacher education students. However, this section is not needed since a program already exists and section 11 deals the funding of that program. We strongly support sections 11 and 12.

The University supports the intent of sections 19 and 20 which supports induction for new teachers and we commit to continued cooperation the DOE in the implementation of induction programs.

While supporting the intent of Sections 21-23 to encourage more qualified individuals to become teachers, the University advises caution in regard to sections 21, 22, and 23.

Section 21. The University disagrees with the premise of section 21 which is that there are undue barriers preventing people from entering the teaching profession in Hawai'i.

Sections 21 and 22 also seem to confuse the roles of the DOE and the Hawai'i Teacher Standards Board with regard to teacher licensing. The University strongly supports the HTSB as the autonomous and sole licensing authority for teachers in Hawai'i. We fear that sections 21 and 22 will undermine the HTSB and render it irrelevant.

Section 22: The University finds unnecessary the requirements of the HTSB to more clearly articulate requirements for teachers hired from out of state or to accept individuals with a National Board Certificate. The HTSB already meets the intent of these proposed changes.

The University supports sections 23 through 29.

The University supports sections 30 and 31 regarding professional development schools. We note that this initiative passed three years ago and that ten schools in partnership with university programs, submitted proposals. The University remains committed to work with schools to develop proposals for professional development schools. We can also provide more detailed information regarding the rationale and nature of PDSs.

The university supports sections 32 through 48.

While we support the intent of S.B. 1642, we respectfully request that priority be given to the Board of Regent-approved biennium budget request which includes increased funding for UHWO to establish a teacher preparation program and UHH to expand their teacher preparation offerings.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of S.B. 1642, SD1 (SSCR588).

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