



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Education

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By

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SB 1147: Relating To Teaching Licensure

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

The University of Hawai'i opposes SB1147, which transfers the Hawai'i Teacher Standards Board's authority to issue teaching licenses to the University of Hawai'i and a committee it selects.

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 Department of Education (DOE) to the Hawai'i Teacher Standards Board (HTSB), an independent governing body like those that exist for other professions. Since July 1, 2002, the HTSB has been responsible for teacher licensing. We believe that the Legislature appropriately placed the authority for teacher licensing with the HTSB.

SB1147 undermines the progress made to date in establishing an independently functioning teacher standards board. As presented, it contradicts existing law and places the University and its College of Education in direct conflict with the Board.

The HTSB is currently holding public hearings about proposed changes to its licensing requirements. These changes once approved will, in large part, benefit out-of-state applicants and make the arguments in Section 1 moot.

We recommend supporting SB100 Relating to Education, and allow the HTSB to decide when a suspension of its rules is in order due to extenuating circumstances so that the Legislature need not form another committee to duplicate the work of the Board.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.