

# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI‘I SYSTEM LEGISLATIVE TESTIMONY



## SB 2663 RELATING TO THE HAWAI‘I TEACHER STANDARDS BOARD

Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Education

February 8, 2008 at 1:15 p.m.

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

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**SB 2663: Relating to the Hawai'i Teacher Standards Board**

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

The University of Hawai'i supports SB 2663, which changes the composition of the Hawai'i Teacher Standards Board (HTSB) and appropriates funds for data/information management efforts of the board. We offer some suggested changes.

Part I, Section 2 changes the composition of the board. We believe it is appropriate to have the majority of HTSB members be professionally licensed teachers. We caution against increasing the number of board members to fourteen since this will not result in the majority being teachers, and could present complications for the board in decision making since the result is an even number of members instead of an odd number. We favor instead keeping the current number of board members at thirteen with seven being licensed teachers.

Part II, Section 3 establishes the need for a teacher workforce data system. This appears to be the same database called for in SB 2880. Our testimony here is the same as in support of SB 2880.

The UH College of Education, along with all members of the Teacher Education Coordinating Committee (TECC), recognize the need for a teacher workforce database and have unanimously supported its creation. The Hawai'i Educational Policy Center (HEPC), in its report to the Legislature, in response to SCR 56 S.D.1 on the status of the Hawai'i teacher workforce recognized the inadequate, scattered, and unreliable data on the progress of teachers from teacher preparation, to obtaining a teaching license, to employment and retention. Such data are valuable not only for policy making, they are essential to the accreditation status of the Institutions of Higher Education that prepare new teachers. However, at present there is no reliable database with which to track teachers into the workforce or to determine their effectiveness. Many of the databases are compromised with personal information making the data unavailable to those who need to better understand the development of the teacher workforce. Collectively, we have the technical expertise to combine data sets at low cost, and to filter out confidential information that may be a part of the basic data of the DOE, IHEs, and

HTSB. We recommend an allocation of \$50,000 to assist in establishing this vital database.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.