

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI‘I SYSTEM LEGISLATIVE TESTIMONY



SB 2880 RELATING TO EDUCATION

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 2880: Relating to Education

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

The University of Hawai'i supports SB 2880, which authorizes the Hawai'i Teacher Standards Board (HTSB) to coordinate an effort that creates a data interface network to promote the free interchange of information among public and private Hawai'i teacher education institutions and the department of education.

SB 2880 duplicates SB 2663 Part II, Section 3, which establishes the need for a teacher workforce data system. This appears to be the same database called for in SB 2663. Our testimony here is the same as in support of SB 2663 with some suggested language changes.

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.

We call your attention to page 2, line 4, which reads "board of education." The intent is clearly HTSB.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.