



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Education and Housing

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By

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And

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SB 1308: Relating to Education

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

The College of Education opposes SB 1308.

The National Commission on Teaching and America's Future Hawaii Policy Group actively lobbied for separating the licensing function from the Department of Education because of inherent conflict of interest, wherein, the employer is also the licensing agency. Such a relationship leads to lowering of professional standards when employment needs increase. It also does not address the needs of teachers in other than DOE schools to become professionally licensed.

One of the hallmarks of a profession is self governance. Under the provisions of SB 1308 the teaching profession would be governed by teachers' employer, not by the profession itself.

Employer as licensing agent also opens the door to potential abuse. It is conceivable that a teacher's license could be jeopardized because of employment issues such as not getting along with their administrator.

The bill deletes the establishment of licensing standards and instead relies on "policies" adopted by the BOE (§302A-802). This suggests a lowering of standards for teachers at the very time when we need to assure every student has a qualified teacher every year.

SB 1308 is not a good policy change for Hawai'i and the College of Education opposes it.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on SB 1308.