



LATE

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TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON  
EDUCATION

RE: SB 2613 - RELATING TO EDUCATION.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2016

COREY ROSENLEE, PRESIDENT  
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association **strongly supports SB 2613**, relating to education.

This bill amends HRS §302A-706 to include counselors and school psychologists within Hawai'i's national board certification incentive program, providing them with a \$5,000 bonus for achieving and maintaining national board certification and an additional \$5,000 for working in a low performing, high-turnover, or hard-to-fill school. This bill also extends the additional bonus for teachers, counselors, and school psychologists whose schools improve over time, thereby ensuring that hard working professionals are not penalized for generating positive results.

National board certified educators are critical to increasing learning growth. As the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards states, national board certified teachers shape the profession that shapes our society's future. Created by teachers, for teachers, national board certification is widely viewed as the gold standard of teaching certification, with the same being respectively true for national board certified counselors and school psychologists. Research shows that the students of national board certified education professionals achieve more and perform better in the classroom.

National board certified education professionals are, therefore, critical to raising graduation rates, setting and meeting rigorous performance goals, and bridging achievement gaps. A study performed by Stanford sociologist Sean Reardon found that the "rich-poor gap" in math and reading test scores is roughly 40 percent larger

now than it was 30 years ago. Given the chronic resource shortages, teacher turnover, demographic inequalities, and low pay experienced by educators working in high-need and economically impaired areas, it is imperative that policymakers take steps to incentivize the pursuit of professional excellence and reward quality educators, without whom scholastic progress may be jeopardized.

Teachers, counselors, and school psychologists should be compensated for boosting school performance. Accordingly, the Hawaii State Teachers Association asks your committee to **support** this bill.



**HAWAII GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION**  
AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO

RANDY PERREIRA, Executive Director • Tel: 808 543 0011 • Fax: 808 528 0922

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The Twenty-Eighth Legislature, State of Hawaii  
The Senate  
Committee on Education

Testimony by  
Hawaii Government Employees Association

February 3, 2016

S.B. 2613 – RELATING TO EDUCATION

The Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO strongly supports the intent of S.B. 2613, which seeks to expand the national board certification incentive program to provide greater monetary incentives to public school counselors and school psychologists. This measure also authorizes continuing bonuses for teachers, counselors, and school psychologists in designated high-need schools that improve and become no longer designated as such.

We respectfully request amendments to this bill to include all other bargaining unit employees, inclusive of School Behavioral Health Specialists, who have achieved national board certification and are employed by or assigned to provide services to students at the schools covered under this measure. We also request that requisite funding be appropriated within this measure separate from collective bargaining funds provided by the legislature.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of the intent of S.B. 2613, with the proposed amendments.

Respectfully submitted,

for Randy Perreira  
Executive Director

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Hawaii School Counselor Association  
PO Box 11359  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96828

Testimony on behalf the Hawaii School Counselor Association  
In support of SB2613 National Board Certification Incentive Program  
February 3, 2016

Dear Sir or Madam:

Please support SB2613. I am a school counselor who is always looking for opportunities to improve my practice. In Hawaii, I try to attend every school counselor professional development workshop and conference that I can find. I participate in online webinars and courses. I have traveled to the mainland a few times to attend the National School Counselor Association conference. I am constantly taking time to learn new methods and best practices in order to maximize my impact on helping my students become industrious citizens.

I am urging you to support SB2613 so that my efforts can be rewarded. My attendance at workshops and conferences can be costly and is often paid out of my own pocket. If the bill passes and National Board Certification is recognized with a financial bonus, I would definitely pursue it. This incentive would allow me to continue my education and develop my practice. Please support.

Sincerely,

Brad Kusunoki  
President  
Hawaii School Counselor Association

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From: [m](#) Feb 3, 2016 13:15PM Tuesday, February 02, 2016  
To: 10:01:23 PM  
Cc:  
Subject:  
Date:

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**SB2613**

Submitted on: 2/2/2016

Testimony for EDU on Feb 3, 2016 13:15PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shauna Gega	Hawai'i Association of School Psychologists	Support	No

Comments: I am in support for the National Certification bonus because I am currently a Nationally Certified School Psychologist (NCSP). In order to hold onto this certification, I have to constantly better myself and stay abreast of innovative evidence-based practices and programs through on-going professional development. With the NCSP certification, Hawai'i DOE ensures that they have highly qualified school psychologists who are able to provide an array of services for Hawai'i's keiki such as cognitive assessments for special education eligibility, behavior assessments, individual and group counseling, and the implementation and evaluation of academic and behavioral interventions. Offering a bonus for the national certification would attract highly qualified school psychologists to work in the islands of Hawai'i.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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**To:** [EDU Testimony](#)  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SB2613 on Feb 3, 2016 13:15PM\*  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 03, 2016 1:35:52 PM

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**SB2613**

Submitted on: 2/3/2016

Testimony for EDU on Feb 3, 2016 13:15PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Taffy Perucci	Hawaii Association of School Psychologists	Support	No

Comments:

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**To:** Tuesday, February 02, 2016 10:50:58 PM  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:**  
**Date:**

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**SB2613**

Submitted on: 2/2/2016

Testimony for EDU on Feb 3, 2016 13:15PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Fely Ebner	Individual	Support	No

Comments: As a School Psychologist working for the State of Hawaii DOE School Based Behavioral Health for 6 years, I support SB2613.

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