



STATE OF HAWAII
HAWAII TEACHER STANDARDS BOARD
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June 29, 2020

TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 2262 SD1 HD1, RELATING TO
THE HAWAII TEACHER STANDARDS BOARD
SUBMITTED BY LYNN HAMMONDS FOR
THE HAWAII TEACHER STANDARDS BOARD

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Members of the Committee on Finance:

The Hawaii Teacher Standards Board (HTSB) **strongly supports** SB 2262 SD1 HD1 to amend the powers and duties of the HTSB to authorize the issuance of voluntary certificates for teachers at independent schools. Historically, independent schoolteachers were eligible for certificates issued by the Hawaii Department of Education, but when the HTSB was established the authority to issue certificates was not transferred and the practice was discontinued.

According to the most recent report from the United States Department of Education on non-public schools, twenty-nine states offer licenses or certificates to independent schoolteachers. Such a certificate could signify that a teacher meets desirable education, experience, and professional requirements as established by the HTSB. These requirements would also allow verification with the National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification (NASDTEC) Clearinghouse that the teacher has not had an adverse action taken on a teaching license from another jurisdiction.

If approved, development of requirements will be established with input from Hawaii Association of Independent Schools (HAIS) member schools, and attaining certification will be voluntary for independent schoolteachers. There will be no fee for obtaining this certificate.

The HTSB thanks the House Committee on Finance for hearing this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.