
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO EDUCATION.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. In 2001, the legislature transferred
2 responsibility for licensing teachers from the department of
3 education to the Hawaii teacher standards board. The transfer
4 was based on recommendations from the Hawaii Policy Group of the
5 National Commission on Teaching and America's Future, a national
6 organization with twenty-three partner states, including Hawaii.
7 By authorizing the board to assume responsibility for teacher
8 licensing, the legislature sought to strengthen the teaching
9 profession by making the board self-governing and accountable
10 for teachers who obtain and maintain licenses in Hawaii. Like
11 its professional counterparts, such as the board of medical
12 examiners for doctors, the Hawaii teacher standards board was
13 authorized to issue, renew, revoke, suspend, and reinstate
14 licenses for individuals desiring to teach in our State.

15 During its first six years of operation, the board
16 discovered that its statutory powers and duties needed
17 clarification. Specifically, the board's power to suspend its
18 policies, rules, and standards needed to be clarified. These



1 clarifications were accomplished in 2007, when the legislature
2 enacted Act 263, Session Laws of Hawaii 2007. The enactment of
3 Act 263 inadvertently removed the board's power to adopt, amend,
4 repeal, or suspend its policies and standards. One of the
5 purposes of this Act is to return those powers to the board.

6 The Act also amends statutory provisions related to the
7 collection of license fees. This Act enables the board to
8 determine how it collects license fees to ensure the timely
9 receipt of the fees and to amend certain fees and set or amend
10 other charges, in accordance with chapter 92.

11 SECTION 2. Section 302A-803, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
12 amended by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

13 "(a) In addition to establishing standards for the
14 issuance and renewal of licenses and any other powers and duties
15 authorized by law, the board's powers shall also include:

- 16 (1) Setting and administering its own budget;
- 17 (2) Adopting, amending, or repealing the rules of the
18 board in accordance with chapter 91;
- 19 (3) Receiving grants or donations from private
20 foundations, and state and federal funds;
- 21 (4) Submitting an annual report to the governor and the
22 legislature on the board's operations and from the



- 1 2007-2008 school year, submitting a summary report
2 every five years of the board's accomplishment of
3 objectives, efforts to improve or maintain teacher
4 quality, and efforts to keep its operations responsive
5 and efficient;
- 6 (5) Conducting a cyclical review of standards and
7 suggesting revisions for their improvement;
- 8 (6) Establishing licensing fees in accordance with chapter
9 91 [~~, including the collection of fees by means of~~
10 ~~mandatory payroll deductions, which shall] and
11 determining the manner by which fees are collected and
12 subsequently [be] deposited into the state treasury
13 and credited to the Hawaii teacher standards board
14 special fund;~~
- 15 (7) Establishing penalties in accordance with chapter 91;
- 16 (8) Issuing, renewing, revoking, suspending, and
17 reinstating licenses;
- 18 (9) Reviewing reports from the department on individuals
19 hired on an emergency basis;
- 20 (10) Applying licensing standards on a case-by-case basis
21 and conducting licensing evaluations;



- 1 (11) Preparing and disseminating teacher licensing
- 2 information to schools and operational personnel;
- 3 (12) Approving teacher preparation programs;
- 4 (13) Administering reciprocity agreements with other states
- 5 relative to licensing;
- 6 (14) Conducting research and development on teacher
- 7 licensure systems, beginning teacher programs, the
- 8 assessment of teaching skills, and other related
- 9 topics;
- 10 (15) Participating in efforts relating to teacher quality
- 11 issues, conducting professional development related to
- 12 the board's standards, and promotion of high teacher
- 13 standards and accomplished teaching; [~~and~~]
- 14 (16) Adopting applicable rules and procedures[~~-~~] and
- 15 (17) Adopting, amending, repealing, or suspending the
- 16 policies and standards of the board."

17 SECTION 3. Act 263, Session Laws of Hawaii 2007, is
 18 amended by amending section 4 to read as follows:

19 "SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2007[~~+~~
 20 ~~provided that on July 1, 2009, section 2 of this Act shall be~~
 21 ~~repealed and section 302A-803, Hawaii Revised Statutes, shall be~~
 22 ~~reenacted in the form in which it read on June 30, 2007.].~~



Report Title:

Hawaii Teacher Standards Board

Description:

Authorizes the Hawaii teacher standards board to suspend its policies, rules, and standards when required by extenuating circumstances. Authorizes the board to determine how it collects license fees.

