



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Education

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By

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SB 605: Relating To Teacher Licensing

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

The University of Hawai'i opposes SB605, which authorizes issuance of a Hawai'i teacher's license based on the possession of an active license from qualified states whose licensure standards are the same or higher than those of Hawai'i.

The State of Hawai'i's 18th Legislature enacted Act 240, which required a license to teach and transferred the authority for setting public school teacher licensing standards from the Department of Education (DOE) to the Hawai'i Teacher Standards Board (HTSB), an independent governing body like those that exist for other professions. Since July 1, 2002, the HTSB has been responsible for teacher licensing.

This bill calls for changes that are already under public review by the HTSB and, if approved, will be in place by the end of this legislative session, thereby rendering this bill moot.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.