



YOUR HAWAII TEACHING LICENSE AFTER ACT 116

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

1) I already paid my fee prior to your announcement on June 26. Can I get a refund?

Unfortunately, this is not possible, because the bill does not become law until June 28. **The good news is that HTSB is able to reverse transactions through its online payment system from June 21, the date the governor signed the bill.**

Because of Hawaii Administrative Rules ([§8-54-2.4 License and permit fees](#)), HTSB cannot refund processed fees for payments prior to June 21. Money that has already been processed and transferred to the State of Hawaii's general fund cannot be removed and returned.

If you made a payment prior to June 21, please do not try to cancel your payment or you will risk a forfeiture of your license.

2) Does this change in the law mean that Hawaii teachers will never have to pay license fees again?

No. [Act](#) 116 signed by the governor allocates money out of the state general fund to HTSB to fully cover its operational costs. It does not specifically eliminate fees altogether or change the board's ability to charge teachers a licensing fee. As a result of this funding, HTSB made the decision to stop charging teachers for their licenses.

This increased funding only covers the next two years because the state budget is on a two-year cycle. Now that it is in place, HTSB anticipates continued funding by the legislature will fully cover their costs going forward. However the HTSB has the authority to decide to cut services or reinstate fees for educators in the future should its budget be cut.

3) What's the difference between the HSTA and HTSB?

People often confuse the two. The Hawaii State Teachers Association (HSTA) is the union that represents all public school teachers, counselors and librarians on contractual matters with the Department of Education and public charter schools. The Hawaii Teacher Standards Board (HTSB) is an independent state agency that handles licensing of Hawaii K-12 teachers.



4) It doesn't seem right that those of us who were responsible and paid early are getting punished. Why did it take so long to tell us we didn't have to pay?

Lawmakers passed [HB 1070](#) this past Legislative session, allowing general fund monies to fully fund the HTSB. If this happened, the board intended to stop charging teachers licensing fees. However, it was possible that the bill would have been vetoed or go into law without the governor's signature on July 9, which fell after the June 30 payment deadline.

The governor informed legislators on June 25 that he had signed HB 1070. As soon as HTSB verified the bill had been signed, they contacted HSTA and the Hawaii State Public Charter School Commission to help get the word out as quickly as possible. HTSB's web developer was also contacted to remove the payment button to stop additional payments from being collected.

As soon as HSTA got word from HTSB on the morning of June 26 about its decision to stop charging licensing fees, HSTA posted a web story and shared it through social media at 10:20 a.m. Later in the day, after confirming further details with HTSB, the HSTA sent an email blast to its members.

5) Why did the HTSB keep sending me payment reminders if they knew this was going to happen?

Last year, teachers who did not make their payment before the due date were upset that they were not notified. In response to that concern and as a service for teachers, HTSB adjusted its system to generate multiple reminders, starting in January of this year. Unfortunately, HTSB could not confirm fees would be removed until HB 1070 was signed into law on June 21.

6) I already called my credit card company and reversed my payment. What do I do?

Please call them back and ask to cancel the reversal. Otherwise you risk forfeiting your license.

7) Does the license fee elimination apply to charter school teachers?

Yes.

8) Does the license fee elimination apply to teachers who need an emergency hire permit, CTE permit or Hawaiian permit?

Yes. HTSB eliminated all license, permit, and application fees.