

# **Hawaii Revised Statutes**

**Updated: Act 151- July 1, 2024**

**(SB2257 SD3 HD1 CD1)**

## **D. Hawaii Teacher Standards Board**

### **§302A-801 Hawaii teacher standards board established**

(a) There is established the Hawaii teacher standards board, which shall be placed within the department for administrative purposes only. The board shall consist of seventeen members, including not less than six licensed teachers regularly engaged in teaching at the time of the appointment, three educational officers employed at the time of the appointment, the chairperson of the board of education or the chairperson's designee, the superintendent or the superintendent's designee, a representative of independent schools, the dean of the University of Hawaii college of education or the dean's designee, and the chairperson of the Native Hawaiian Education Council or the chairperson's designee; provided that one teacher member shall be engaged in teaching at a Hawaii public charter school at the time of appointment and the dean's designee shall be chosen from the member institutions of the teacher education coordinating committee established under section 304A-1202, and two members of the public. A non-voting teacher candidate from a Hawaii educator preparation program at a public institution of higher education on a rotating basis shall be appointed by the chairperson of the teacher education coordinating committee to serve a one-year term.

(b) Except for the chairperson of the board of education, superintendent, dean of the college of education, the chairperson of the Native Hawaiian Education Council, and the teacher candidate member, the governor shall appoint the members of the board pursuant to section 26-34, from a list of qualified nominees submitted to the governor by the departments, agencies, education stakeholder groups, and organizations representative of the constituencies of the board; provided that the governor may request additional names of qualified nominees from the departments, agencies, education stakeholder groups, and organizations representative of the constituencies of the board at any time. To the extent possible, the board membership shall reflect a combination of abilities, breadth of experiences, and characteristics that will best serve the diverse interests and needs of elementary and secondary school personnel and the education system in Hawaii from early childhood through higher education. Such considerations shall include but not be limited to reflecting the diversity of the student population, geographical representation, and a broad representation of education-related stakeholders.

(c) Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, appointed board members shall serve not more than three consecutive three-year terms. Teacher and educational officer members who retire during a term may serve the remainder of their current term.

(d) Board members shall receive no compensation. When board duties require that a board member take leave of the board member's duties as a state employee, the appropriate state department shall allow the board member to be placed on administrative leave with pay and shall provide substitutes, when necessary, to perform that board member's duties. Board members shall be reimbursed for necessary travel expenses incurred in the conduct of official board business.

(e) The chairperson of the board shall be designated by the members of the board.

(f) The board may employ an executive director for a term of up to four years, who shall be appointed by the board of education without regard to chapters 76 and 89; provided that the board shall submit a nominee to the board of education for approval or disapproval; provided further that if the nominee is disapproved, the board shall submit another nominee to the board of education for approval or disapproval.

The board may terminate the executive director's contract for cause; provided that the board shall submit the recommendation for termination to the board of education for approval or disapproval.

[L 1996, c 89, pt of §2; am L 1999, c 218, §3; am L 2001, c 312, pt of §10; am L 2006, c 75, §9; am L Sp 2009, c 2, §2; am L 2011, c 134, §1; am L 2014, c 39, §3; am L 2018, c 50, §1]

### **Cross References**

Definitions, see §302A-501.

### **§302A-802 Licensing and certification standards; policies.**

(a) The board shall establish licensing and certification standards that govern teacher licensing and certification in Hawaii. Licensing and certification standards established by the board shall be adopted as rules under chapter 91 unless otherwise specified in this subpart.

(b) In the development of its standards, the board shall consider the existing teacher applicant pool that is available in the State and the level of the qualification of these applicants, as well as the nature and availability of existing preservice teacher training programs.

(c) The board shall adopt policies, exempt from chapters 91 and 92, to initiate the following:

(1) Develop criteria allowing more individuals with trade or industry experience to teach in vocational, technical, and career pathway programs, and criteria for the issuance of permits allowing qualified individuals to teach when recommended by the superintendent or the commission, when appropriate. The department or the commission, when appropriate, shall be responsible for the review and acceptance of the relevant licenses, certificates, or other qualifications related to an individual's vocational, technical, or career pathway education-related experience that the department or the commission, when appropriate, deems necessary for a permit. The department or the commission, when appropriate, shall have the authority to waive the requirement of a bachelor's degree to teach in a vocation, technical, or career pathway education program;

(2) Develop a plan to accept teachers from any state as long as they have completed state-approved teacher education programs and pass relevant Hawaii teacher examinations or their equivalent;

(3) Clarify the requirements, on a state-by-state basis, for out-of-state licensed teachers to obtain a license in Hawaii;

(4) Develop a plan to facilitate licensing for those who intend to teach in Hawaii immersion programs, the island of Niihau, or any other extraordinary situation as defined by the superintendent or the superintendent's designee, or by the commission, when appropriate;

(5) Pursue full teacher license reciprocity with all other states; and

(6) Develop a plan to facilitate an optional certification for those who teach or intend to teach at private school.

[L 1996, c 89, pt of §2; am L 2001, c 312, pt of §10, §13; am L 2002, c 16, §18; am L 2005, c 159, §12; am L 2006, c 226, §2; am L 2007, c 146, §2; am L 2014, c 39, §4; am L 2020, c 53, §1]

**§302A-803 Powers and duties of the board.** (a) In addition to establishing standards for the issuance and renewal of licenses and certificates and any other powers and duties authorized by law, the board's powers shall also include:

(1) Setting and administering its own budget;

(2) Adopting, amending, or repealing the rules of the board in accordance with chapter 91;

(3) Receiving grants or donations from private foundations, and state and federal funds;

(4) Submitting an annual report to the governor, the legislature, and the board of education on the board's operations and expenditures, and from the 2007-2008 school year, submitting

a summary report every five years of the board's accomplishment of objectives, efforts to improve or maintain teacher quality, and efforts to keep its operations responsive and efficient;

(5) Conducting a cyclical review of standards and suggesting revisions for their improvement;

(6) Establishing licensing and certification fees in accordance with chapter 91 and determining the manner by which fees are collected and subsequently deposited into the state treasury and credited to the general fund;

(7) Establishing penalties in accordance with chapter 91;

(8) Issuing, renewing, forfeiting, restoring, conditioning, revoking, suspending, and reinstating licenses and certificates;

(9) Developing criteria for a full career and technical education license, limited to career and technical education teaching assignments, allowing qualified individuals with at least an associate's degree or high school diploma with comparable education and coursework, industry experience, and content expertise to teach;

(10) Reviewing reports from the department and commission on individuals hired on an emergency basis;

(11) Applying licensing and certification standards on a case-by-case basis and conducting licensing and certification evaluations;

(12) Preparing and disseminating teacher licensing and certification information to schools and operational personnel;

(13) Approving teacher preparation programs;

(14) Establishing policies and procedures for approving alternative pathways to teaching;

(15) Administering reciprocity agreements with other states relative to licensing;

(16) Conducting research and development on teacher licensure systems, beginning teacher programs, the assessment of teaching skills, and other related topics;

(17) Participating in efforts relating to teacher quality issues, professional development related to the board's standards, and promotion of high teacher standards and accomplished teaching;

(18) Upon declaration of a state of emergency pursuant to section 127A-14, extending the expiration date of any license, certificate, or permit until June 30 of the following school year;

(19) Adopting applicable rules and procedures;

(20) Adopting, amending, repealing, or suspending the policies and standards of the board; and

(21) Issuing and renewing an optional certificate for those who teach or intend to teach at private schools.

(b) If, in accordance with chapter 92, the board determines, on a case-by-case basis, that extenuating circumstances exist to justify the suspension, the board may temporarily suspend its rules, or any portion thereof. The board shall establish, in accordance with chapter 91, procedures for the suspension of its rules. When determining whether to suspend its rules, the board shall also establish the length of time for which the suspension shall be in effect.

(c) The board, in accordance with chapter 92, may also amend licensing-related and certification-related fees and set or amend other charges related to the performance of its duties.

(d) The board may delegate to its executive director, or other designee, any of its powers and duties as it deems reasonable and proper; provided that the delegation of powers and duties by the board shall be made in accordance with procedures set forth in this subsection. The board shall not delegate its discretionary functions resulting in a final decision in:

(1) Adopting, amending, or repealing rules;

(2) Ordering disciplinary action against a licensee, including license revocation or suspension, or the imposition of conditions or fines; provided that summary suspensions may be delegated; or

(3) Denying permits, licenses, or certificates, including license and certificate renewals and reinstatements, or otherwise conditioning permits, licenses, or certificates unless the denying, or otherwise conditioning of a permit, license, or certificate does not require the exercise of the board's expertise and discretion.

To delegate authority, the concurrence of a majority of the members to which the board is entitled shall be necessary for any action taken by the board to be valid. The board shall conduct its meetings to delegate powers and duties to its executive director, or other designee, in accordance with chapters 91 and 92.

[L 1996, c 89, pt of §2; am L 1997, c 195, §2; am L 2000, c 106, §§1, 4; am L 2001, c 312, pt of §10 and §§12, 13 and c 314, §3; am L 2002, c 16, §19 and c 193, §4; am L 2003, c 3, §11;

am L 2007, c 263, §§2, 4; am L Sp 2009, c 2, §§3, 5; am L 2010, c 184, §2; am L 2011, c 134, §2; am L 2014, c 39, §5; am L 2019, c 79, §1 and c 161, §1; am L 2020, c 53, §2; am L 2024, c 151, §1]

**§302A-804 Powers and duties of the department, commission, and charter schools.**

(a) The department, commission, and charter schools shall retain all of their rights and powers except for the authority provided to the board under this subpart.

(b) The department's powers and duties under this subpart shall be limited to:

(1) Hiring, except in emergency situations as described in this chapter, licensed teachers to teach in their fields of licensing;

(2) Reporting data annually to the board about the supply of, and demand for, teachers in department schools, including the identification of shortage areas, out-of-field teaching assignments, number of classrooms without a licensed teacher for a quarter or more, numbers of teachers teaching out-of-field, numbers and types of courses and classes taught by out-of-field teachers, and numbers and types of students taught by out-of-field teachers;

(3) On an emergency and case-by-case basis, hiring unlicensed individuals; provided that:

(A) A list of the names, work sites, teaching assignments, and progress toward licensing of these individuals shall be reported to the board and any changes shall be updated on a monthly basis by the department;

(B) There are no properly licensed teachers for the specific assignments for which the individuals are being hired; and

(C) No individual may be employed by the department on an emergency basis for more than three years; provided that in the case of a declaration of a state of emergency pursuant to section 127A-14, the board, pursuant to its powers in section 302A-803(a)(18), may extend the three-year period by authorizing an extension to complete licensing requirements. During this time, the individual shall demonstrate active pursuit of licensing in each year of employment;

(4) Submitting an annual report to the board documenting:

(A) The number of emergency hires in department schools by subject matter areas and by school;

(B) The reasons and duration of employment for the emergency hiring enumerated in subparagraph (A); and

(C) The department's efforts to address the shortages described in subparagraph (A); and

(5) Providing any other information requested by the board that is pertinent to its powers and duties.

(c) The commission's powers and duties under this subpart shall be limited to:

(1) Reporting data annually to the board about the supply of, and demand for, teachers in charter schools, including the identification of shortage areas, out-of-field teaching assignments, number of classrooms without a licensed teacher for a quarter or more, numbers of teachers teaching out-of-field, numbers and types of courses and classes taught by out-of-field teachers, and numbers and types of students taught by out-of-field teachers; and

(2) Providing any other information requested by the board that is pertinent to the commission's powers and duties.

(d) A charter school's powers and duties under this subpart shall be limited to:

(1) Except in emergency situations as described in this chapter, hiring licensed teachers to teach in their fields of licensing;

(2) On an emergency and case-by-case basis, hiring unlicensed individuals; provided that:

(A) A list of the names, work sites, teaching assignments, and progress toward licensing of these individuals shall be reported to the board and any changes shall be updated on a monthly basis by the charter schools;

(B) There are no properly licensed teachers for the specific assignments for which the individuals are being hired; and

(C) No individual may be employed by the charter school on an emergency basis for more than three years; provided that in the case of a declaration of a state of emergency pursuant to section 127A-14, the board, pursuant to its powers in section 302A-803(a)(18), may extend the three-year period by authorizing an extension to complete licensing requirements. During this time, the individual shall demonstrate active pursuit of licensing in each year of employment;

(3) Submitting an annual report to the board documenting:

- (A) The number of emergency hires in the charter school by subject matter areas;
  - (B) The reasons and duration of employment for the emergency hiring enumerated in subparagraph (A);
  - (C) The number of classrooms without a licensed teacher for a quarter or more;
  - (D) The number and type of courses and classes taught by out-of-field teachers; and
  - (E) The number and type of students taught by out-of-field teachers; and
- (4) Providing any other information requested by the board that is pertinent to the charter school's powers and duties.

[L 1996, c 89, pt of §2; am L 2001, c 312, pt of §10; am L 2008, c 125, §§2, 4; am L 2011, c 23, §1; am L 2014, c 39, §6; am L 2019, c 79, §2; am L 2020, c 53, §3]

### **§302A-805 Teachers; license or permit required; renewals.**

[(a)] No person shall serve as a half-time or full-time teacher in a public school without first having obtained a license or permit from the board under this subpart. All licenses and permits issued by the board shall be valid only for the fields specified on the licenses and permits and shall be renewable every five years for a standard license and every ten years for an advanced license if the individual continues to:

- (1) Satisfy the board's licensing and permit standards and submits verification, in a form specified by the board, that the individual has completed activities specified by the board in fulfillment of each of the teacher performance standards established by the board;
- (2) Show evidence of successful teaching in the previous five years through verification by a supervisor, in a form specified by the board;
- (3) Meet the professional fitness requirements established by the board;
- (4) Satisfy the board's requirements for renewal of licenses and permits; and
- (5) Pay all applicable license and permit fees in a timely manner.

The board shall randomly audit a licensee's or permit holder's compliance with paragraph (1) and may establish rules, pursuant to chapter 91, for the random audits.

[(b)] No person shall be issued a license or permit, or teach on an emergency basis in the public schools without having first paid the fees established by the board in accordance with chapter 91.



[(c)] The failure to timely renew a license or permit, pay all fees in a timely manner, or comply with any other requirement provided by law or administrative rule shall result in the automatic forfeiture of the license or permit. A person with a forfeited license or permit shall not teach at a public school until that person's license or permit is restored. Restoration of a license or permit shall require compliance with the renewal requirements provided by law or administrative rule and payment of all applicable renewal and late fees. Upon restoration of a person's license or permit, the person may teach at a public school.

[L 1996, c 89, pt of §2; am L 1997, c 195, §3; am L 2000, c 106, §§2, 4; am L 2001, c 312, pt of §10, §12; am L 2004, c 10, §9; am L Sp 2009, c 2, §§4, 12; am L 2010, c 184, §§3, 9; am L 2011, c 134, §3; am L 2014, c 39, §7; am L 2018, c 50, §2; am L 2019, c 111, §12]

**[§302A-805.5] Approval of teacher education programs; professional development of teachers.** The board shall be responsible for approving teacher education programs that meet the standards established by the board. The board may engage in efforts relating to the improvement of instruction through teacher education and professional development, and to attract qualified candidates for teacher training from among the high school graduates of the State.

[L 2001, c 312, pt of §2]

**[§302A-805.6] Efforts related to teacher quality.**

(a) The board may participate in efforts relating to issues affecting teacher quality. The board may conduct professional development activities related to its standards, and shall promote and support high teacher standards and accomplished teaching through means deemed appropriate by the board.

(b) To remain current with trends and issues in teacher licensure systems, beginning teacher programs, the assessment of teaching skills, teacher development, and other related topics, the board shall participate in programs and attend conferences and training that address these topics. The board may conduct research and development activities for the purpose of staying abreast of or better understanding these trends and issues.

[L 2001, c 312, pt of §2]

**§302A-806 REPEALED.** L 2019, c 161, §3.

**§302A-807 Refusal, suspension, revocation, and reinstatement of licenses.**

(a) The board shall serve as the final adjudicator for appeals relating to licensing, including the issuance or nonissuance of licenses, and the condition, suspension, nonrenewal, and revocation of licenses.

(b) The board shall establish procedures for the conduct of proceedings for the consideration of requests filed with the board. In every case to condition, revoke, or suspend a license, the board shall give the person concerned written notice that a request has been filed with the board. The board shall conduct a hearing in conformity with chapter 91, and shall provide for confidentiality of the proceedings to protect the parties. In all proceedings before it, the board may administer oaths, compel the attendance of witnesses and production of documentary evidence, and examine witnesses. In case of disobedience by any person to any order of the board or to any subpoena issued by the board, or the refusal of any witness to testify to any matter that the person may be questioned lawfully, any circuit judge, on application of the board or a member thereof, shall compel obedience in the case of disobedience of the requirements of a subpoena issued by a circuit court or a refusal to testify.

(c) Any applicant who has been refused a license, or any licensee whose license has been conditioned, suspended, or revoked, shall have the right to appeal the board's decision to the circuit court of the circuit in which the applicant or licensee resides in the manner provided in chapter 91; provided that out-of-state resident applicants shall file their appeals in the first circuit court.

(d) Upon revocation of a license, the board may disclose the name, birthdate, social security number, and any other pertinent information about the former holder of the license:

(1) To the department;

(2) To the commission; and

(3) For the purpose of exchanging information under chapter 315 with other national or state teacher certification agencies about school personnel who have had licenses revoked.

[L 1996, c 89, pt of §2; am L 2001, c 312, pt of §10 and §13; am L 2002, c 16, §20 and c 226, §4; am L 2003, c 3, §12 and c 133, §5; am L 2011, c 134, §4; am L 2014, c 39, §8; am L 2019, c 279, §2]

**§302A-808 Penalty.** Any person who engages in the profession of teaching in a public school without first being issued a license or hired on an emergency basis as defined in this chapter shall be fined not more than \$500. Any person who knowingly or intentionally violates this subpart by employing an individual as a public school teacher who does not possess a valid license or is not a department of education or charter school emergency hire

as defined in this chapter may be fined not more than \$500. All fines shall be deposited into the general fund.

[L 1996, c 89, pt of §2; am L 2001, c 312, pt of §10; am L 2003, c 3, §13; am L 2014, c 39, §9; am L 2019, c 161, §2]

**§302A-809 REPEALED.** L 2001, c 312, pt of §10.