

TITLE: Updated HTSB Mission and Vision Statement

The Hawaii Teacher Standards Board approves the below language to be added to HTSB's Mission and Vision Statement. This language will align HTSB's Mission and Vision statement with the purpose and findings of ACT 240.

HTSB's Vision and Mission

The HTSB envisions a highly esteemed Hawaii public education system with rigorous professional teacher standards that foster student success. Our mission is to collaboratively set high teacher licensing and credentialing standards to:

- ▶ Provide every child in Hawaii with qualified teachers.
- ▶ Promote professionalism and teaching excellence.
- ▶ Build public confidence in the teaching profession.
- ▶ Provide more accountability to the public.

ACT 240
"CHAPTER

HAWAII TEACHER STANDARDS BOARD

§ -1 Purpose and findings. *The purpose of this chapter is to transfer the responsibility for setting public school teacher certification standards from the department of education to the Hawaii teacher standards board. By transferring the authority to set certification standards from the department of education to the teacher standards board, the profession of teaching will attain a status comparable to that of other professions. The attainment of this status will ensure that qualified teachers will be employed to educate Hawaii's public school children.*

Teacher standards have two objectives. The first objective is to provide every child in Hawaii with a teacher who is qualified to practice the profession of teaching. Because every child is compelled to attend school, no child should have to attend a classroom conducted by someone who has not been determined, in advance, to be qualified to practice this profession. The second objective is to establish public confidence in the teaching profession. To that end, all educators will be required to receive a license or credential from the teacher standards board qualifying them to teach in the school system.

The legislature finds that the provision of a quality education for the children of Hawaii is a critical function of state government. It is vitally important that the highest possible standards be applied to the training of teachers and the screening of teacher applicants. In light of national efforts to establish certificates for currently employed teachers, the legislature finds that a Hawaii teacher standards board will provide more public accountability when the State sets standards for teacher applicants, and will ensure a higher level of professionalism and excellence.

Submitted by: Branden Kawazoe
Referred to: Teacher Standards Committee