

TITLE: Verification of Content Knowledge for Adding a Field to an Active Valid Hawaii License

As outlined in Hawaii Administrative Rules (HAR) §8-54-9.5(2), the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board approves the below methods in which an applicant can verify their content knowledge and experience to add a field to an active valid Hawaii License.

Content Knowledge:

Content knowledge for adding a licensure field may be verified by one or more of the following options:

- *Completing a state-approved teacher education program in the content field; or
- Passing score(s) on licensure test adopted by the Board in the content field; or
- National Board for Professional Teaching Standards certification in the content field; or
- Content major consisting of a minimum of thirty (30) semester hours in the content field for a bachelor's degree awarded by an accredited institution of higher education; or
- A minimum of thirty (30) semester hours in the content field from an accredited institution of higher education, at least fifteen (15) of which must be upper-division level (all coursework must be directly related to the content field in which an added field is being pursued); or
- A master's, specialist, or doctoral degree in the license field awarded by an accredited institution of higher education.
- For Elementary Education K-6 licensure:
 - a total of thirty-six (36) semester hours, including nine (9) semester hours in each of the following four core content areas:
 - language arts,
 - mathematics,
 - science, and
 - social studies.
 - All core content area courses must be related to Elementary Education and at least three (3) semester hours in each of the core content areas must be upper-division level.
 - If all four (4) core content areas cannot be met using coursework, a passing score on a Board approved Praxis test in the content area may be used in conjunction with coursework.

The applicant will identify the specific course(s) pertaining to the license field sought. Additional documentation may be required of the applicant to ensure the coursework directly relates to the content field in which an added field is being pursued.

*Certain license fields may only be added by completing a State Approved Teacher Education Program (SATEP).

Content knowledge and experience must be verified prior to adding a license field to an active Hawaii license. Verification of experience will be in accordance with HAR

§8-54-9.5 (cited below).

Rationale/Background:

The HTSB policy that speaks specifically to content knowledge is outlined in [NBI 12-29 Revised](#). This NBI addresses content knowledge requirements specific to Hawaii Educator Preparation Programs. In accordance with HAR §8-54-9.5(2), this NBI would specifically address content knowledge requirements for adding a field to a license.

Hawaii Administrative Rules §8-54-9.5

§8-54-9.5 Adding a field to a license. (a) If a licensee wants to add additional teaching fields to their teaching license the person shall:

- (1) Complete a state-approved teacher education program that includes appropriate experiences in a P-12 setting in the new field; or
- (2) ***Submit documentation of meeting content knowledge verification for licensure in the new field using a method specified by the board and submit one of the following:***
 - (A) The equivalent of one (1) year of satisfactory half time or more contracted P-12 teaching experience in the new field within the last five (5) years of application date; or
 - (B) Submit verification of three (3) or more years of contracted P-12 experience within the last five (5) years of application date in the same 54-20§8-54-9.5 license grade level span under a Hawai'i Standard License or its equivalent in another state; or
 - (C) Submit passing scores on a pedagogy licensure examination approved by the board in the new grade level; or
 - (D) Submit verification of previous completion of a state approved educator preparation program in the same license grade level as the new field; or
- (3) Possess an Advanced License in one field and submit one of the following:
 - (A) The equivalent of a content major in the new field; or
 - (B) Passing score for the subject area test in the new field; and
 - (C) The grade level(s) of the new license field(s) must be the same as the existing license level(s) unless the applicant submits verification as outlined in 8-54-9.5 (2) A -D for the new level(s).

(b) Adding school librarian, reading specialist, literacy specialist, and early childhood education as a field shall be subject to the provisions of (a) (1) of this subsection.

*including School Counselor ([NBI 21-12](#))

(c) Upon submittal of appropriate documentation of the method selected by the licensee and receipt of the required fees, and subject to meeting all requirements, the board will add the new field to the license. The licensee's license will include the new teaching field and be subject to the same expiration date for renewal of the current license.

Submitted by: Branden Kawazoe
Referred to: Teacher Standards Committee