

New Business Item 22-53
Introduced January 13, 2023
Approved January 13, 2023

TITLE: Interstate Teacher Mobility Compact

The Hawaii Teacher Standards Board (HTSB) approves the purpose and intent of the Interstate Teacher Mobility Compact (ITMC) but has reservations with fully endorsing an ITMC legislative bill until HTSB can identify the full impact on teacher licensing in the State of Hawaii.

HTSB staff will monitor any legislative bill that pertains to the ITMC and will continue to work to identify the impact the ITMC will have on the HTSB. This may include the need for additional funding and/or staff to fully implement the ITMC.

Rationale/Background:

*The Council of State Governments (CSG) partnered with the Department of Defense (DoD) and the National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification (NASDTEC) developed the Interstate Teaching Mobility Compact (ITMC). The ITMC is an interstate occupational licensure compact. Interstate compacts are constitutionally authorized, legislatively enacted, legally binding agreements among states. The ITMC will allow teachers to be granted an equivalent license in another compact member state, lowering barriers to teacher mobility, and getting teachers back into the classroom more seamlessly. **

Currently, HTSB supports the mobility of licensed teachers through reciprocity and is a signatory to the NASDTEC Interstate Agreement which allows licensure reciprocity with participating states.

Reservations:

The following is a comparison detailing HTSB’s reservations.

ITMC Requirements**	HTSB’s Reservations	HTSB’s Requirements
A teacher with a valid, unencumbered license is eligible to use the compact.	No additional documents can be required to determine if the licensure criteria are equivalent to Hawaii license (e.g., is a Standard license from another state/jurisdiction equivalent to a Hawaii Standard License?).	HTSB reviews official documents from other agencies for validity and accuracy.
Hold a bachelor’s degree.	While a bachelor’s degree is required, the current ITMC language does not identify that the bachelor’s degree is awarded from an accredited institution.	HTSB requires that a bachelor’s degree be awarded from an accredited institution.
Have completed all requirements of a state-approved program for teacher licensure.	Currently, requirements that define a state-approved program for teacher licensure differ from state-to-state in both rigor and quality.	HTSB verifies the validity of an out-of-state teacher preparation program.
ITMC requires the issuance of a Hawaii license at no expense to an applicant	Currently, HTSB licenses thousands of teachers who are not teaching in Hawaii. This is not addressing Hawaii’s teacher shortage.	Issuance of a Hawaii license currently does not require employment in a Hawaii public and/or charter schools.
Undergo a criminal background check in the receiving state.	HTSB does not have the authority to complete background checks at licensure.	The Hawaii Department of Education conducts all background checks at employment and not at licensure.
Costs will be determined once the Commission is developed.	HTSB has not been informed of the cost(s) to be part of the ITMC. ITMC has not identified any associated cost(s).	HTSB’s budget is legislatively funded and will require additional funding and staffing to execute the ITMC.

*The teacher compact website: <https://teachercompact.org/>

** The ITMC Fact Sheet <https://teachercompact.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/28/2022/11/ITMC-Fact-Sheet.pdf>

Submitted by: Branden Kawazoe

Referred to: Legislative Committee