

TITLE: HTSB's 2026 Legislative Priorities

The Hawai'i Teacher Standards Board (HTSB) approves the following legislative priorities for the 2026 legislative session:

The Board supports proposed legislation that:

- Advances HTSB's efforts to support its Mission and Vision by:
 - Providing every child in Hawai'i with qualified teachers.
 - Promoting professionalism and teaching excellence.
 - Building public confidence in the teaching profession.
 - Being accountable to the public.
- Supports funding mechanisms to attract and retain qualified teachers that are in alignment with quality education and HTSB's Mission and Vision.
- Promotes supportive, safe, and accessible environments with rigorous learning for all public school students (e.g., licensed teachers, health and well-being of students, school safety, security, and emergency management and preparedness).
- Supports informed decision-making on licensure and permitting through collaborative partnerships with HTSB.
- Supports HTSB bill(s) that align with the Board's legislative priorities.
- Supports HTSB bill(s) that are part of the Governor's package.

The Board opposes and/or provides comments on proposed legislation that:

- Lowers or changes the quality of licensing and permitting requirements as required by law.
- Diminishes the Board's authority as granted in Hawaii Revised Statutes and/or Hawaii Administrative Rules.
- Creates additional duties or responsibilities for the Board without providing expanded authority of the Board through the Hawaii Revised Statutes and/or Hawaii Administrative Rules.
- Creates additional duties or responsibilities for the Board without appropriating adequate, commensurate resources to accomplish such duties or responsibilities.

The Board takes no position on legislation relating to the Board's composition, as the Board believes it is most appropriate for the Legislature and Governor to decide such matters. The Board will do its utmost to provide the Legislature with information to make informed decisions.

If approved, the Permitted Interaction Ad Hoc Committee, the Executive Director, or the Executive Director's designee will submit testimony on behalf of the Board in support or in opposition of bills directly related to HTSB's 2026 legislative priorities, as long as the intent of the bills remain unchanged.

Rationale/Background:

Legislative priorities help HTSB focus its efforts on the most crucial issues that align with its Mission and Vision. By identifying and focusing on priorities, HTSB can be more agile in responding to changes in the legislative landscape, adjusting its strategies as needed to remain effective in achieving its goals.

Cost(s):

Staff transportation cost to and from the State Capitol.

- As of January 1, 2025, 70 cents per mile driven for business.
- 1.4-1.7 miles one way from central worksite (Dole Cannery).
- Longer/shorter distance if traveling from a remote worksite.
- A rate of \$178 per substitute is provided for each Bargaining Unit 5 Board Member participating in legislative hearings.

Submitted by: Kristi Miyamae

Referred to: Legislative Committee