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April 20, 2026

TO: Teacher Standards Committee Members  
Hawai'i Teacher Standards Board

FROM: Dawn Kau'i Sang   
Director, Office of Hawaiian Education, Hawai'i Department of Education

SUBJECT: Hawai'i Teacher Standards Board, Teacher Standards Committee  
Agenda Item III. D. NBI 25-22 Revised Policy on Hawaiian Permit Requirements,  
Program Responsibilities, and Review

Aloha Members of the Teacher Standards Committee:

The Hawai'i Department of Education (Department) appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony on **Agenda Item III. D. New Business Item (NBI) 25-22 Revised Policy on Hawaiian Permit Requirements, Program Responsibilities, and Review**. We **support** the recommendations of the HTSB Hawaiian Work Group during its most recent meeting on February 12, 2026. This revised draft reflects the shared understanding of this work group and is a confirmation of value for ensuring strong collaboration between those parties who have the most appropriate experience in responding to the needs of Ka Papahana Kaiapuni schools and classrooms.

The Department values efforts such as these in order to increase appropriate support for the faculty, staff, and students who have dedicated themselves to Kaiapuni education and Hawaiian language revitalization. Furthermore, we view the Hawaiian Permit as a vital tool for filling vacancies in our Kaiapuni schools. It provides a meaningful pathway for educators to serve our communities while they concurrently pursue degrees or teacher certifications.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of NBI 25-22 Revised. Should you have any further questions, please feel free to contact me by email at, [dawn.sang@k12.hi.us](mailto:dawn.sang@k12.hi.us).

DKS:lh

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