New Business Item 26-13
Introduced November 13, 2026

TITLE: Formation of the Program Review Process Review Workgroup

The Hawai‘i Teacher Standards Board (HTSB) approves the formation of a workgroup composed of the following members to meet during the 2026-2027 school year to review the HTSB's process for the Program Review Process, while keeping in mind that Hawaii Revised Statues (HRS) and Hawaii Administrative Rules (HAR) need to be followed.

1. **The workgroup may be composed of the following representatives** from HTSB approved SATEPs for different types of licensure pathways:

    - One faculty representative from a traditional **undergraduate** degree granting educator preparation program
    - One faculty representative from a traditional **graduate** degree granting educator preparation program
    - One faculty representative from a traditional **post-baccalaureate** educator preparation program
    - One faculty representative from an **"Add-a-Field"** educator preparation program
    - One faculty representative from an **alternative** educator preparation program
    - One faculty representative of a **Kaiapuni /Hawaiian Immersion**, educator preparation program

2. **Research and Review:** The workgroup will, among other tasks, revisit NBI 25-32 Revised and shall provide recommendations to the HTSB
    - Revise the program review procedures
    - Make no changes

3. **If the workgroup recommends any action, it shall also include:**
    - Methods for disseminating information to the field
    - Gathering input from all stakeholders.

Rationale/ Background

Recent HTSB and Board of Education discussions regarding the educator preparation program review process have generated a significant amount of testimony from educator preparation programs, faculty, teachers, school leaders, professional organizations, and other education stakeholders. While the testimony demonstrates broad support for HTSB's responsibility to maintain rigorous standards and ensure high-quality educator preparation, it also identifies recurring concerns about the administration of the program review process. The volume and consistency of these concerns warrant a comprehensive examination of the current statutory, regulatory, policy, and procedural framework.

Major themes identified through testimony include:

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- **Timeliness and predictability**: Lengthy and uncertain review periods, sometimes extending months or years, coupled with very short response deadlines for educator preparation programs.
- **Clarity and transparency**: Changing documentation requirements, unclear expectations, and limited transparency regarding review criteria and decision-making.
- **Consistency and standardization**: Concerns regarding whether standards, criteria, and procedures are consistently applied across programs, institutions, reviewers, and types of applications.
- **Scope of review**: Questions regarding whether some information requested through program review extends beyond HTSB's statutory responsibility for determining whether educator preparation programs meet established standards.
- **Duplication and administrative burden**: Potential duplication of institutional curriculum review, national accreditation, federal reporting, and other existing quality-assurance requirements.
- **Reviewer qualifications and process**: Concerns regarding reviewer selection, appropriate subject-matter expertise, cultural competency, training, conflicts of interest, and consistency among review teams.
- **Stakeholder engagement**: A need for meaningful consultation with educator preparation programs, practitioners, and affected communities when substantive policies, procedures, or interpretations are developed or changed.
- **Workforce impact**: Concern that delays or unnecessary barriers may impede Hawai‘i's ability to prepare teachers in high-need areas, including special education, Kaiapuni, and rural and neighbor-island communities.
- **Kaiapuni and specialized pathways**: The need for review processes that recognize the linguistic, cultural, pedagogical, and workforce context of Hawaiian language-medium education and other specialized pathways.
- **Transition protections**: The need for adequate notice and reasonable transition provisions when requirements or interpretations change, particularly for candidates already enrolled in educator preparation programs.

These concerns suggest an opportunity to ensure that HTSB's program review system maintains appropriate rigor while also being clear, transparent, consistent, timely, equitable, and responsive to Hawai‘i's educator workforce needs.

Cost:

- Virtual Meetings: No cost
- In-Person Meetings:
  - $373 per workgroup member, covering potential expenses such as:
    - Flights, Substitutes, Meals, Parking
  - $237 for additional costs, including:
    - Meeting room rental, Car rental

Submitted by: Jonathan Gillentine

Referred to: Teacher Education Committee

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