UNAPPROVED

STATE OF HAWAII
HAWAIʻI TEACHER STANDARDS BOARD
GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING

MINUTES

Remote Technology via Zoom

650 Iwilei Road, Suite 158
Honolulu, HI 96817

Friday, September 11, 2026

PRESENT IN-PERSON:

Dr. Jonathan Gillentine, Board Chair

PRESENT ONLINE:

Dale Matsuura, Board Vice Chair
Deanna D'Olier, Board Member
Kahele Dukelow for Roy Takumi, Board Member
Gary Kanamori, Board Member
Brad Kusunoki, Board Member
Logan Okita, Board Member
Daphne Okunaga, Board Member
Dr. Tammi Oyadomari-Chun for Keith Hayashi, Board Member
Dr. Jamie Simpson Steele for Dr. Nathan Murata, Board Member
John Thatcher for Dr. Mark Sung Alapaki Luke, Board Member

EXCUSED:

Leah Aiwohi, Board Member
Dr. Komarey Moss, Board Member

STAFF:

Dr. Mitzie Higa, Interim Executive Director
Steven Harada, Licensing Specialist
Tracey Idica, NBCT, Licensing Specialist
Dr. Jennifer Padua, Licensing Specialist
Tammy Nochi, Business Management Officer

ALSO PRESENT:

Jason Dietrich, Educational Testing Service

I. CALL TO ORDER

A. ROLL CALL TO ESTABLISH QUORUM

Board Chair Dr. Jonathan Gillentine called the Hawai'i Teacher Standards Board ("HTSB") general business meeting to order at 1:02 p.m.

Board Chair Dr. Gillentine called roll call and established quorum. Board Chair Dr. Gillentine was present in-person. Board Vice Chair Dale Matsuura, and Board Members Deanna D'Olier, Kahele Dukelow, Gary Kanamori, Brad Kusunoki, Logan Okita, Daphne Okunaga, Dr. Jamie Simpson Steele, and John Thatcher were present online. Board Members Leah Aiwohi and Dr. Komarey Moss were excused. Board Member Dr. Tammi Oyadomari-Chun was not present at roll call.

Board Chair Dr. Gillentine shared information regarding procedures for virtual board meetings and non-public site disclosure. None of the Board Members participating online had anyone present with them to disclose. Board Chair Dr. Gillentine shared additional information regarding meeting protocols and procedures.

Board Member Dr. Oyadomari-Chun entered the meeting remotely via Zoom.

B. PUBLIC TESTIMONY ON GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING AGENDA ITEMS

On-time and late written testimonies were submitted and posted to HTSB's website. No one signed up for in-person testimony. One individual signed up for online public testimony:

Kahea Faria, from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa ("UHM") College of Education ("COE") MEdT program, testified online via Zoom in support of Agenda Item IV.G. NBI 25-32 Revised: Establish Committee to Strengthen Program Review Process. She mentioned their program's request for a grade band modification to recognize K-6 and 6-12 separately within their pre-existing K-12 licensure pathway that would allow principals to hire their teacher candidates either in K-6 or 6-12 settings for the school year and be able to complete their teacher preparation programs while on the job. She explained that the current licensure pathway poses a problem for teacher candidates of having to choose to either stay in their position as a teacher or leave and continue to work on their K-12 license.

C. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

D. EDUCATIONAL TESTING SERVICES: PRAXIS PRESENTATION

Board Chair Dr. Gillentine introduced Educational Testing Service ("ETS") Client Relations Director Jason Dietrich ("CRD Dietrich") to conduct a presentation on Praxis for the full board ("Board"). CRD Dietrich stated that he was supposed to present at a past board meeting; however, due to unforeseen circumstances he wasn't able to. He highlighted that

he made minor adjustments to his planned presentation and would inform us of the changes when they come up in the presentation. CRD Dietrich shared his credentials and his career history at ETS. CRD Dietrich presented information concerning ETS, its core values, the Assessment Development process and who is involved, the Praxis Bridge program and Standard Error of Measurement ("SEM"), Praxis testing and free programs offered, and Praxis Resources that teacher candidates can utilize when preparing for the Praxis test.

CRD Dietrich highlighted various key points throughout the presentation such as how ETS and Praxis doesn't set recommended cut scores in states, fairness guidelines for the assessment, different modules used for candidates who fall short from passing the assessment, and the routing model that emphasizes approaches for cross validation.

CRD Dietrich shared the timeline of the assessment and the history of the different assessments launched and its impact in the United States. CRD Dietrich shared that Praxis Bridge is an add-on to an adopted assessment by a state or territory. He shared a visual candidates will go through and the overall guide to how the learning modules are used. CRD Dietrich went over Title II reporting and how the scores are considered passing in the Title II report. CRD Dietrich highlighted information on states adopting the Praxis Bridge program, which includes Hawai'i. CRD Dietrich emphasized how the Praxis Bridge program is and how it aids/supports candidates. CRD Dietrich highlighted the support resources available and their support process to these resources for EPP's and candidates.

CRD Dietrich shared basic information on SEM and what SEM reflects. CRD Dietrich went over false negatives, false positives, and how ETS has the ability (at HTSB's request) to run Praxis Bridge eligibility data going back three testing years to see how many candidates in the state of Hawai'i would have and currently eligible for Praxis Bridge**.**

CRD Dietrich shared the Free After Three program for candidates to have free assessment retakes after candidates not passing after three times on the same assessments. This program helps the candidates relieve extra financial burdens pertaining to Praxis.

CRD Dietrich shared information on Praxis Testing resources and stated that not many candidates take advantage of these resources. He stated that there are remote testing, study companion guides, study plans, and Interactive Practice Tests ("IPTs"). He also went over special services that Praxis offers, and the different types of accommodations based on disabilities, language barriers, and fee waivers.

In the question-and-answer portion of the presentation, Board Member Thatcher asked CRD Dietrich if there is any data that documents the number of Primary Language Not English ("PLNE") accommodations that have been granted in Hawai'i. He asked specifically if they had data saying how many Hawaiian language, primary language have applied for the accommodations. CRD Dietrich stated that he can't pull live data during the presentation; however, it that's the data that would like to see then the Interim Executive Director ("ED") would need to email him outlining specifically what's being requested and he will get the data for them.

Board Chair Dr. Gillentine asked if there were any further questions. There were no further questions or discussion from the Board.

E. INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S AUGUST REPORT

Board Chair Dr. Gillentine introduced Interim ED Dr. Mitzie Higa for her report. Interim ED Higa stated that she stood on her report and shared the report embedded in the agenda. Interim ED Higa thanked the Board during this time being an Interim ED. She stated that if the Board has any questions they can email her and she will do her best to research answers and get back to them as soon as possible.

II. PUBLIC TESTIMONY ON GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING AGENDA ITEMS

A. LICENSING UPDATE – Licensing Specialist Dr. Jennifer Padua

Board Chair Dr. Gillentine introduced Licensing Specialist Dr. Jennifer Padua ("LS Padua") to share the licensing update. LS Padua shared that on August 1st there were 315 Hawai'i Department of Education ("HIDOE") teachers and 68 charter school teachers who started work without a valid license or permit. She informed the Board on Hawaii Revised Statutes ("HRS") §302A-805 and Hawaii Administrative Rules ("HAR") §8-54-3.1, where half- or full-time teachers must have a valid license or permit before starting work. LS Padua mentioned that the Office of Talent Management ("OTM") also issued their own audit letters explaining to teachers that they do not hold a license or permit. She explained how our licensing management system ("LMS") sends reminders to teachers about their license or permit expiring on numerous occasions, but teachers still had their license or permit expire for various reasons (e.g., did not complete renewal process, assumed their license gets automatically renewed, name on file did not match with their uploaded government issued identification, got locked out of their online accounts, or had unresolved professional fitness matters). LS Padua shared that the licensing specialists have been working very hard to get everyone licensed as quickly as possible by contacting the teachers via phone, email, text, and messages in their online HTSB account. She expressed that it is important to have quality teachers in the classroom, so the specialists have to make sure that the teachers are qualified and meet the professional fitness ("PF") requirements.

LS Padua mentioned that the specialists have been trying to navigate the many challenges regarding PF matters since the LS who handled HTSB's PF issues had retired. She expressed that specialists want to make sure that they process these applicants legally as the Board would need to affirm these licenses at board meetings, and to protect students. LS Padua noted how very grateful they were to have Board Chair Dr. Gillentine's support and for his communication with the Deputy Attorney General ("DAG").

LS Padua explained that a lot of time has been spent with the educator preparation programs ("EPPs") as they hold annual meetings to go over program updates including staff changes. She shared that the specialists have been preparing licensing presentations with EPPs since they are now back in school. She mentioned that many have wanted presentations as this is one way for teacher candidates to have their licensing questions answered directly by the specialists outside of their class time.

LS Padua explained to the Board that HTSB is also responsible for the federal Title II State Report Card Certification for Hawai'i and that HTSB's year-round process is a bit different from institutions of higher education. She shared that in August, the HTSB was required to validate all the teaching field licenses before being released to the Institutes of Higher Education. LS Padua shared that you could look at the reporting process between the state agencies as well as the preparation programs by going to the website: *title2.ed.gov*.

LS Padua mentioned that she was available for any questions from the Board.

Board Member Dr. Simpson Steele shared that many teachers on Maui said that they did not receive reminders about their license expiring and wanted to know if there was any mechanism that can be looked at to explain what those teachers were telling her. LS Padua explained that the HTSB LMS has "My Transaction History" on the home page of their online HTSB account. She explained that it shows a detailed line by line item of any activity that has occurred (i.e., a reminder that went out or when an application was submitted). LS Padua also explained that another reason could be that they did not use a primary email address, so the message went to their junk/spam.

Board Member Dr. Oyadomari-Chun noticed that many resources are being wasted on applicants who are not in Hawai'i yet hold a Hawai'i license (about 10,000 individuals). She wanted to flag the Board to take more formal action and work on what the Board could do legislatively or administratively to make sure that the HTSB staff are in the position to spend their time on those who are teaching in Hawai'i.

B. REGISTERED TEACHER APPRENTICESHIP UPDATE – Interim Executive Director Dr. Mitzie Higa

Board Chair Dr. Gillentine introduced Interim ED Higa to share the registered teacher apprenticeship update. Interim ED Higa was pleased to share that all parties signed the Standards of Apprenticeship for K-12 Education for Teachers which made it possible to start the process of accessing the State Apprenticeship Expansion Formula ("SAEF") grant. She had to explain that because the contract with the National Center for Grow Your Own ("NCGYO") expired on June 30th, it had to be resent and go through the process with the HIDOE, which it's currently now with the DAG. Interim ED Higa further explained that HTSB had to file a Corrective Action Report with the federal Department of Labor and Industrial Relations because there was only one year left to spend the SAEF grant. She shared that the state approved teacher education programs ("SATEPs") needed to start submitting their lists of educational assistants ("EAs") for the apprenticeship program, so that they can have their tuition paid once the subcontract is approved.

III. PUBLIC TESTIMONY ON GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING AGENDA ITEMS

On-time and late written testimonies were submitted and posted to HTSB's website. No one else signed up for in-person or online public testimony.

IV. NEW BUSINESS, COMMITTEE REPORTS, AND PENDING COMMITTEE ACTION

NEW BUSINESS – Committee of the Whole

Board Chair Dr. Gillentine called for a motion for NBI 25-38 Revised. (Matsuura / Simpson Steele)

A. NBI 25-38 Revised: The Hawai'i Teacher Standards Board Election of Board Officers and Committee Assignments for 2026-2027

Board Chair Dr. Gillentine announced that the Native Hawaiian Education Council ("NHEC") had assigned Mr. John Thatcher as the designee for Dr. Mark Sung Alapaki Luke. He informed the Board that Board Member Thatcher would be added to the Legislative Committee and the Teacher Education Committee.

Board Chair Dr. Gillentine asked if there were any questions or discussion. There were no questions or discussion from the Board.

Board Chair Dr. Gillentine called for a roll call vote on the motion of whether to approve or deny NBI 25-38 Revised, as written. Board Member Thatcher abstained. The motion carried with ten Board Members present voting to approve NBI 25-38 Revised, as written:

AYE (10)	Gillentine, Matsuura, D'Olier, Dukelow, Kanamori, Kusunoki, Okita, Okunaga, Oyadomari-Chun, Simpson Steele
NAY (0)	
ABSTAIN (1)	Thatcher
EXCUSED (2)	Aiwohi, Moss

ACTION — NBI 25-38 Revised: The Hawai'i Teacher Standards Board Election of Board Officers and Committee Assignments for 2026-2027, as written, was adopted by the Board.

B. NBI 26-05: License Affirmation (July 2026)

Board Chair Dr. Gillentine briefly reviewed NBI 26-05. He asked the Board if there were any questions or discussion. There were no further questions or discussion from the Board.

Board Chair Dr. Gillentine called for a roll call vote on the motion of whether to approve or deny NBI 26-05, as written. The motion carried unanimously with 11 Board Members present voting to approve NBI 26-05, as written:

AYE (11)	Gillentine, Matsuura, D'Olier, Dukelow, Kanamori, Kusunoki, Okita, Okunaga, Oyadomari-Chun, Simpson Steele, Thatcher
NAY (0)	
ABSTAIN (0)	
EXCUSED (2)	Aiwohi, Moss

ACTION — NBI 26-05: License Affirmation (July 2026), as written, was adopted by the Board.

PENDING COMMITTEE ACTION – Budget, Personnel, and Strategic Planning Committee: Okita

The Budget, Personnel, and Strategic Planning Committee met at 9:02 a.m. and looked at one update item and one New Business Item.

C. Budget Update 2026-2027

Due to technical issues on Zoom, this agenda item was revisited later during the meeting.

D. NBI 26-06: Permitted Interaction Group Relating to the Recruitment and Selection of HTSB's Executive Director

Board Member Okita stated the Budget, Personnel, and Strategic Planning Committee voted to recommend NBI 26-06, as written, to the Board. Board Chair Dr. Gillentine asked Board

Member Dr. Simpson Steele, the Chair of the Permitted Interaction Group ("P.I.G."), to share about the P.I.G.'s meetings as it relates to NBI 26-06.

Board Member Dr. Oyadomari-Chun asked if she could offer an explanation. Board Chair Dr. Gillentine agreed. Board Member Dr. Oyadomari-Chun clarified that this current sharing out is not the report of the P.I.G. She stated that parameters were provided by the Office of Information Practices ("OIP") in which the scope of this work needs to be split into two parts for two P.I.G.s. She explained that Board Member Dr. Simpson Steele would report on the first P.I.G. regarding handling the timeline, process, and job description for the ED's search. She further explained that this NBI is a recommendation to create the second P.I.G. regarding handling the recruitment and selection aspect of the ED's search. She restated that the first P.I.G. would provide its report at a separate time.

Board Member Dr. Simpson Steele shared that the P.I.G. has refined the ED's job description, developed a timeline and process for advertising and reviewing, and developed a budget that may include monies for relocation for off-island applicants. She also shared that the P.I.G. has discussed two possible timelines: (1) an expedited timeline for a sufficient applicant pool to fill the position as quickly as possible without sacrificing high qualifications and rigorous review; and (2) a contingent, longer timeline if there is not a sufficient applicant pool with sufficient expertise. She clarified that this NBI is for the creation of the second P.I.G., which would pick up this process, work with HTSB staff, and carry out the ED search.

Board Chair Dr. Gillentine asked the Board if there were any questions or discussion.

Board Member Dr. Oyadomari-Chun clarified that this discussion is for NBI 26-06 regarding the second P.I.G. She stated that although Board Member Dr. Simpson Steele shared about the first P.I.G., a report still needs to be formally delivered in writing to the Board at a future meeting.

Board Chair Dr. Gillentine asked the Board if there were any further questions or discussion. There were no further questions or discussion from the Board.

Board Chair Dr. Gillentine called for a roll call vote on the motion of whether to approve or deny NBI 26-06, as written. The motion carried unanimously with 11 Board Members present voting to approve NBI 26-06, as written:

AYE (11)	Gillentine, Matsuura, D'Olier, Dukelow, Kanamori, Kusunoki, Okita, Okunaga, Oyadomari-Chun, Simpson Steele, Thatcher
NAY (0)	
EXCUSED (2)	Aiwohi, Moss

ACTION — NBI 26-06: Permitted Interaction Group Relating to the Recruitment and Selection of HTSB's Executive Director, as written, was adopted by the Board.

PENDING COMMITTEE ACTION – Legislative Committee: Dr. Gillentine

The Legislative Committee met at 10:00 a.m. and looked at two New Business Items.

E. NBI 26-07: Permitted Interaction Group for the 2027 Legislative Session

Board Chair Dr. Gillentine shared that the Legislative Committee voted to defer NBI 26-07 per the advice of Interim ED Higa, who received concerns from OIP regarding the number of members and the scope of the P.I.G. He stated HTSB would reach out to OIP for further guidance.

ACTION — NBI 26-07: Permitted Interaction Group for the 2027 Legislative Session, as written, was deferred.

F. NBI 26-08: HTSB's 2027 Legislative Priorities

Board Chair Dr. Gillentine briefly reviewed NBI 26-08. He asked the Board if there were any questions or discussion. There were no questions or discussion from the Board.

Board Chair Dr. Gillentine called for a roll call vote on the motion of whether to approve or deny NBI 26-08, as written. The motion carried unanimously with 11 Board Members present voting to approve NBI 26-08, as written:

AYE (11)	Gillentine, Matsuura, D'Olier, Dukelow, Kanamori, Kusunoki, Okita, Okunaga, Oyadomari-Chun, Simpson Steele, Thatcher
NAY (0)	
EXCUSED (2)	Aiwohi, Moss

ACTION — NBI 26-08: HTSB's 2027 Legislative Priorities, as written, was adopted by the Board.

PENDING COMMITTEE ACTION – Teacher Education Committee: Dr. Simpson Steele

The Teacher Education Committee met at 11:00 a.m., heard public testimony, and reviewed one New Business Item.

G. NBI 25-32 Revised: Establish Committee to Strengthen Program Review Process

Board Member Dr. Simpson Steele stated: "This is an NBI that has been in process for quite some time. It is a direct response to some of the barriers that have made it very difficult for some EPPs to move new programs through, through the review process. And, and many thanks to Kahele Dukelow, who has shepherded this NBI." Board Member Dr. Simpson Steele then stated that the Teacher Education Committee now is ready to recommend NBI 25-32 Revised for approval by the Board.

Board Chair Dr. Gillentine explained that due to the recommendation coming from committee, there was no need for a second. Board Chair Dr. Gillentine stated the Teacher Education Committee voted to recommend NBI 25-32 Revised, as amended, to the Board.

Board Chair Dr. Gillentine called for a roll call vote on the motion of whether to approve or deny NBI 25-32 Revised, as amended. The motion carried unanimously with 11 Board Members present voting to approve NBI 25-32 Revised, as amended:

AYE (11)	Gillentine, Matsuura, D'Olier, Dukelow, Kanamori, Kusunoki, Okita, Okunaga, Oyadomari-Chun, Simpson Steele, Thatcher

NAY (0)

EXCUSED (2) Aiwohi, Moss

ACTION — NBI 25-32 Revised: Establish Committee to Strengthen Program Review Process, as amended, was adopted by the Board.

V. NEXT HTSB MEETING: November 13, 2026

Board Chair Dr. Gillentine stated there is a special meeting scheduled for September 18, 2026. He stated the next regularly scheduled HTSB board meeting is on November 13, 2026. The details of the agendas would come out prior to the meetings.

IV. C. Budget Update 2026-2027

Before adjourning the meeting, Board Chair Dr. Gillentine introduced Business Management Officer Tammy Nochi ("BMO Nochi") to share the budget update. BMO Nochi shared that there are balances primarily in personnel costs due to savings from staff positions that were vacant. She mentioned that Board Member Dr. Oyadomari-Chun had pointed out deficits in some categories and positive balances in others, clarifying that the whole pie remained the same although some of the slices within the pie changed sizes. She stated that in the approved upcoming budget, she restructured the categories and their budgets so that they more closely align with what HTSB's funds are actually spent on. She mentioned Board Member Dr. Oyadomari-Chun suggested having some policies regarding how HTSB handles exceeding expenditures. She also shared that for the 2027-2029 fiscal biennium, $200,000 was requested for HTSB's budget: $100,000 for an eventual office move and $100,000 for the contract with HTSB's licensing management system operator. She mentioned that Board Member Dr. Oyadomari-Chun explained that HIDOE would pass-through the budget request, and it would go to the Legislature and the Governor.

Board Member Okita thanked BMO Nochi for summarizing the Budget, Personnel, and Strategic Planning Committee's discussion for the Board.

ACTION — No action was taken on this update item.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Board Chair Dr. Gillentine adjourned the general business meeting at 2:39 p.m.

UNAPPROVED

List of people who submitted written testimony before the meeting

ON-TIME WRITTEN TESTIMONY for General Business Meeting		
NAME	ORGANIZATION	AGENDA ITEM
Kahea Faria	University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa	IV.G. NBI 25-32 Revised: Establish Committee to Strengthen Program Review Process
Kimo Cashman, PhD	University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa	IV.G. NBI 25-32 Revised: Establish Committee to Strengthen Program Review Process
Cathy K Ikeda, EdD Stephanie H Kamai, EdD	University of Hawai‘i–West O‘ahu	IV.G. NBI 25-32 Revised: Establish Committee to Strengthen Program Review Process
Hali Kanoelani Pacheco		IV.G. NBI 25-32 Revised: Establish Committee to Strengthen Program Review Process
Brandi Cutler		IV.G. NBI 25-32 Revised: Establish Committee to Strengthen Program Review Process
Hui Makua O Pū‘ōhala		IV.G. NBI 25-32 Revised: Establish Committee to Strengthen Program Review Process
Sara Cook	University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa	IV.G. NBI 25-32 Revised: Establish Committee to Strengthen Program Review Process
A. Ku‘ulei Serna	University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa	IV.G. NBI 25-32 Revised: Establish Committee to Strengthen Program Review Process
Tiffany L. Nerveza-Clark	State Kaiapuni Distance Learning Program	IV.G. NBI 25-32 Revised: Establish Committee to Strengthen Program Review Process
Stephanie Furuta	University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa	IV.G. NBI 25-32 Revised: Establish Committee to Strengthen Program Review Process
Dr. Larry L. Kimura	University of Hawai‘i at Hilo	IV.G. NBI 25-32 Revised: Establish Committee to Strengthen Program Review Process
Dawn Kau‘i Sang	Hawai‘i Department of Education, Office of Hawaiian Education	IV.G. NBI 25-32 Revised: Establish Committee to Strengthen Program Review Process
Kananinohea Māka‘imoku		IV.G. NBI 25-32 Revised: Establish Committee to Strengthen Program Review Process

LATE WRITTEN TESTIMONY for General Business Meeting		
NAME	ORGANIZATION	AGENDA ITEM
Hope Pualani McKeen		IV.G. NBI 25-32 Revised: Establish Committee to Strengthen Program Review Process
Andrea Eshelman	Hawai‘i State Teachers Association	IV.G. NBI 25-32 Revised: Establish Committee to Strengthen Program Review Process
Eōmailani Kukahiko	University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa	IV.G. NBI 25-32 Revised: Establish Committee to Strengthen Program Review Process