



**STATE OF HAWAII
HAWAII TEACHER STANDARDS BOARD
GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING**

MINUTES

Remote Technology via Zoom

650 Iwilei Road, Suite 158
Honolulu, HI 96817

Friday, January 16, 2026

PRESENT IN-PERSON:

Kristi Miyamae, Board Chair
Kahele Dukelow for Roy Takumi, Board Member
Dr. Jonathan Gillentine, Board Member
Dr. Tammi Oyadomari-Chun for Keith Hayashi, Board Member

PRESENT ONLINE:

Dondra Ozaki, Board Vice Chair
Deanna D'Olier, Board Member
Dr. Dion Dizon for Dr. Mark Sung Alapaki Luke, Board Member
Dale Matsuura, Board Member
Daphne Okunaga, Board Member
Dr. Cecily Ornelles, in place of Dr. Jamie Simpson Steele for Dr. Nathan Murata, Board Member
Dawn Raymond, Board Member
Dr. Katina Soares, Board Member
Kerry Tom, later in place of Dr. Tammi Oyadomari-Chun for Keith Hayashi, Board Member

EXCUSED:

Dale Arakaki, Board Member
Justin Mew, Board Member
Natashya Nihipali, Board Member

STAFF:

Felicia Villalobos, Board Executive Director
Steven Harada, Licensing Specialist
Dr. Mitzie Higa, Licensing Specialist
Tracey Idica, NBCT, Licensing Specialist

UNAPPROVED

Kaulana Molina, NBCT, Licensing Specialist
Kris Murakami, Esq., Licensing Specialist
Dr. Jennifer Padua, Licensing Specialist

I. CALL TO ORDER

A. ROLL CALL TO ESTABLISH QUORUM

Board Chair Kristi Miyamae called the Hawai'i Teacher Standards Board ("HTSB") general business meeting to order at 10:46 a.m.

Board Chair Miyamae iterated HTSB's Mission and Vision. She shared information regarding procedures for virtual board meetings, then called roll call and established quorum. Board Chair Miyamae and Board Members Kahele Dukelow, Dr. Jonathan Gillentine, and Dr. Tammi Oyadomari-Chun were present in-person. Board Vice Chair Dondra Ozaki; Board Members Deanna D'Olier, Dale Matsuura, Dawn Raymond, and Dr. Katina Soares; and Dr. Cecily Ornelles were present online. Board Members Dale Arakaki, Justin Mew, and Natashya Nihipali were excused. Board Members Dr. Dion Dizon and Daphne Okunaga were not present at roll call.

Board Chair Miyamae shared information regarding non-public site disclosure.

Board Members Dr. Dizon and Okunaga joined the meeting remotely via Zoom.

None of the Board Members participating online had anyone present with them to disclose. Board Chair Miyamae shared additional information regarding meeting protocols and procedures.

B. PUBLIC TESTIMONY ON GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING AGENDA ITEMS

Board Chair Miyamae announced that Agenda Item IV.C. NBI 25-22 was deferred in committee, but public testimony would still be taken.

On-time and late written testimonies were submitted and posted to HTSB's website. Three individuals signed up for in-person public testimony.

Kau'i Sang, from the Hawai'i Department of Education's ("HIDOE's") Office of Hawaiian Education ("OHE"), testified in-person on Agenda Item IV.C. NBI 25-22: Policy on Hawaiian Permit Requirements, Program Responsibilities, and Review. Based on discussion during the Teacher Standards Committee meeting, she asked the full board ("Board") to consider the relationship and separation between the Hawaiian Permit and teacher licensure programs, and assignment of responsibilities. She mentioned Hawaii Administrative Rules ("HAR") §8-54-9.6 (a).

Kahea Faria, from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa ("UHM") College of Education ("COE") MEdT program, testified in-person on Agenda Item I.F. HTSB Program Review Process Presentation. She mentioned New Business Item ("NBI") 13-09, the program's request for grade band recognition, and concerns of overreach regarding faculty members' intellectual

property. She asked the Board to reconsider NBI 25-17 from the November board meeting, and for collaboration.

Kau'i Sang, from HIDOE's OHE, testified in-person on Agenda Item I.F. HTSB Program Review Process Presentation. She asked the Board to consider the broader landscape of Kaiapuni education when making programmatic decisions, emphasizing the importance of investigation of existing system structures and clarity of process. She offered her appreciation to the Board for ensuring collaboration and deferring to the Hawaiian Workgroup when recommendations are made, as federal and state policies are considered in consultation with HTSB staff.

Board Chair Miyamae expressed the Board's appreciation to the Hawaiian Workgroup for their time and expertise given.

Board Member D'Olier left the meeting remotely during public testimony. She was excused from the remainder of the meeting.

C. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Board Chair Miyamae welcomed three new Board Members: Principal Dale Arakaki from Kawananako Middle School, licensed teacher Natashya Nihipali from Kamaile Academy Public Charter School, and public member Daphne Okunaga.

D. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

The minutes of the November 14, 2025, meeting was approved as written.

E. HAWAII DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION – OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN EDUCATION PRESENTATION

Associate Professor Kanani Maka'imoku ("AP Maka'imoku") presented the historical context of kaiapuni education within the islands of Hawai'i. AP Maka'imoku shared the growth of kaiapuni education overtime and the future need of kaiapuni educators. The presentation included the number of Hawaiian language preschools and kula kaiapuni across the Hawaiian Islands and the number of fluent 'Ōlelo Hawai'i speakers outside the Ni'ihau community. AP Maka'imoku stated that in response, families, educators, and community leaders created pathways to learn through 'Ōlelo Hawai'i, which led to the beginning of Pūnana Leo Preschools and extended to the first kula kaiapuni.

AP Maka'imoku explained the HIDOE's kaiapuni student enrollment and teacher needs from 2015-2025, with a 67% increase in student enrollment across the state. The kaiapuni enrollment will continue to grow and is projected to exceed 4,000 students in the HIDOE schools by 2035.

OHE Educational Specialist Iwane stated that the OHE developed strategies to address the kaiapuni teacher shortage with Palapala A'o Kūikawā ("PAK") or the Hawaiian Permit. Strategies include college recruitment, Grow Our Own funds, teacher incentives, increasing 'Ōlelo Hawai'i in service, increasing 'Ōlelo Hawai'i teachers in service, the Hoapili Pathways program and working with the 'Aha Kauleo to help at least one licensed teacher per year.

Technical difficulties occurred, and OHE Educational Specialist Iwane was disconnected.

UNAPPROVED

OHE Educational Specialist Iwane stated that the purpose and goals of the Hawaiian permit and the NBI were to address the kaiapuni teacher shortage. She stated there were English-speaking substitute teachers trying to fill the vacancies in kaiapuni classrooms.

ED Villalobos stated that technical difficulties occurred, resulting in a loss of connection.

OHE Educational Specialist Iwane apologized for all the technical difficulties.

She explained that OHE is responsible for the intake of all Hawaiian permittee applicants. Permit holders must hold a high school diploma, have proficiency in 'Ōlelo Hawai'i, a cultural growth and development plan aligned with the kaiapuni and Hawaiian program and teacher standards, and a 30-hour induction. OHE completes the annual requirements for each permittee, including whether the permittee was taking college courses, was accepted into a teacher preparation program, met with a counselor, and reviewed the cultural plan.

OHE Educational Specialist Iwane stated that some permit holders face challenges, such as focusing on their careers rather than pursuing studies toward licensure.

OHE Educational Specialist Iwane deferred the question to OHE Director Kauai Sang.

OHE Director Sang stated OHE has a strong relationship with the Hawaiian educator preparation programs Kahuawaiola and the UHM COE, and with the Hoapili program.

Board Chair Miyamae asked how often OHE meets with their candidates and what type of services are provided to ensure that everybody is successful

OHE Educational Specialist Iwane responded a minimum of once a year, and OHE staff works with kaiapuni principals to identify mentors to support Hawaiian Permit holders.

OHE Director Sang reiterated the importance of working with the Hawaiian Educator Preparation Programs and having close relationships with permittees.

AP Maka'imoku added that there are individualized plans for Hawaiian Permit holders with wraparound supports from Hoapili Teacher Pathways, OHE, Kahuawaiola, and UHM COE. Induction and mentoring are available through HIDOE. AP Maka'imoku is pursuing opportunities to offer coursework and training for kaiapuni mentors.

Board Chair Miyamae asked if there were any further questions.

Board Member Dr. Chun commented that HIDOE received litigation, requests for additional programs, and requests to open more classrooms.

Board Member Dukelow requested more information about the 'Aha Kauleo.

OHE Director Sang stated that the 'Aha Kauleo is a statewide consortium of representatives from each kaiapuni school, including school administrators, po'o kumu, teacher-parents, and various Hawaiian education organizations, which meet quarterly. The Board of Education has a policy for the 'Aha Kauleo to advise on the OHE program. This year, the 'Aha Kauleo is focusing on expanding the teacher candidate pool.

Board Chair Miyamae asked if there were any further questions.

No questions or comments were made.

Board Member Dizon left the meeting remotely during the presentation. She was excused from the remainder of the meeting.

F. HTSB PROGRAM REVIEW PROCESS PRESENTATION

Executive Director Felicia Villalobos (“ED Villalobos”) and Licensing Specialist Dr. Jennifer Padua (“LS Padua”) presented information on the HTSB Educator Preparation Program (“EPP”) Review Process. Information included HTSB’s Vision and Mission, Hawaii Revised Statutes (“HRS”), HAR, and identification of State Approved Education Programs (“SATEPs”), and the EPP Review Process.

LS Padua described the program review process, including the qualifications of program reviewers, the types of program reviews, and Board approval.

LS Padua stated HTSB’s approved SATEPs, shortage areas, data, and accreditation, and HTSB’s annual Audit. LS Padua explained the importance of approved SATEPs, the reasoning for quality teachers, and the importance of retention.

LS Padua asked if there were any questions or comments.

ED Villalobos commented about the difficulties, challenges, and outcomes that the HTSB and teacher candidates encounter when programs are not properly reviewed by HTSB. ED Villalobos discussed the program review process, its rationale, and retention issues.

ED Villalobos asked if there were any questions or comments.

Board Member Dukelow commented on the alignment of these program reviews, asked about stakeholders’ responsibilities, and suggested the most effective and efficient way to do this work, and suggested forming a committee to understand the responsibilities.

Board Member Ornelles commented on the HTSB program review process, expectations, and clarity on this process.

Board Chair Miyamae commented on her experience during a program review collaboration day and on the types of feedback and comments given by the review committee members, who are expert practitioners in the field. Chair Miyamae explained the current issues HTSB encounters when a program review is not in place, and that the bottom line is that HTSB needs to take care of our students.

Board Member Dukelow agreed and added comments on different perspectives and HTSB’s role in the program review process.

Board Member Okunaga asked if there was a rubric for the program review process.

Board Chair Miyamae deferred the question to ED Villalobos.

ED Villalobos stated there is no current rubric and they are currently consulting other states to help navigate this.

Board Chair Miyamae deferred to ED Villalobos to share takeaways on how to move forward with working with the EPPs.

ED Villalobos shared insights from the Day of Collaboration, will continue to invite EPPs to meet with HTSB staff to clarify expectations, and will schedule additional collaboration days.

Board Chair Miyamae asked if there were any questions.

Board Member Oyadomari-Chun left the meeting in-person during the presentation. She stated in the Zoom chat that Kerry Tom, present online, had her proxy. Mr. Tom attended in place of Board Member Oyadomari-Chun for the remainder of the meeting.

Mr. Tom expressed his attendance at the Day of Collaboration and his support for working together.

G. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Board Chair Miyamae introduced ED Villalobos to share her report. ED Villalobos stood on her report and shared that HTSB had a legislative briefing yesterday. She mentioned there were questions about teacher support and concerns about emergency hires, which she would like to discuss further with HIDOE as she thought they had some great ideas on solutions moving forward. She shared that HTSB staff have been trying to find a new office space for the last two years due to outgrowing our current office space; needing to rent a meeting space that still cannot accommodate the presence of in-person Board Members, staff, and public testifiers; and leaking ceiling and flooding of office floor during heavy rain weather.

ED Villalobos shared about the Dive Into Education event that brought Teaching as a Profession ("TAP") students and teachers together, highlighting that there were many stakeholder groups wanting to support this initiative. She asked Board Chair Miyamae and Board Member Okunaga if they wanted to speak on it. Board Member Okunaga hoped more will attend as this was the first time non-O'ahu schools attended, and that the University of Hawai'i at West O'ahu may host next year. Board Chair Miyamae shared that it was nice to see her Mililani students at this event and know that they may become teachers. She expressed her excitement for the Educators Rising state and national competitions.

ED Villalobos shared that HTSB's new website officially launched and welcomed feedback. She then shared the following events:

- Day of Collaboration event with the Association for Advancing Quality in Educator Preparation ("AAQEP") that was on January 13, 2026. She thanked those who were able to attend.
- The HTSB Summer Summit is tentatively set for June 4-5, 2026. The 4th will be for Board Members, and the 5th will be with stakeholders and geared toward the EPP process.
- The in-person Hawai'i Educators Rising State Competition and Conference at UHM on February 6, 2026. She praised Dr. Janet Kim and her team for doing an amazing job on the formatting and online virtual part of last year's competition. ED Villalobos expressed how excited she was for the state competition winners that will go on to the national competition for the first time in Portland, Oregon on June 20-23, 2026, as she heard many great things about it.

UNAPPROVED

Board Chair Miyamae asked the Board if there were any questions. There were no questions from the Board.

II. PUBLIC TESTIMONY ON GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING AGENDA ITEMS

On-time and late written testimonies were submitted. No one else signed up for online or in-person public testimony.

A. LICENSING UPDATE – Licensing Specialist Steven Harada

Board Chair Miyamae introduced LS Steven Harada to share the licensing update. LS Harada shared that HTSB’s new website launched before the holidays with minor issues that were immediately resolved. He also shared that the renewal season for expiring Standard and Advanced Licenses began on January 1st with notifications going out to personal emails. He stated as of December 1st, 5,207 Standard Licenses and 122 Advanced Licenses would be expiring on June 30, 2026, according to HTSB’s licensing management system (“LMS”) operators Business Solution Technologies (“BST”). He also shared that HTSB staff continue to do monthly audits of public and charter school teachers without valid licenses or permits, as well as collaborate with HIDOE’s Office of Talent Management (“OTM”) on their biannual audit. He shared that HTSB staff continue to support stakeholders with presentations and facilitate workgroups, then listed scheduled upcoming trainings and presentations for the first quarter of the new year.

Board Chair Miyamae asked the Board if there were any questions. There were no questions from the Board.

Board Chair Miyamae shared that she renewed her license and it was a fairly easy process.

B. REGISTERED TEACHER APPRENTICESHIP UPDATE – Licensing Specialist Dr. Mitzie Higa

Board Chair Miyamae introduced LS Dr. Mitzie Higa to share the registered teacher apprenticeship update. LS Higa shared that registered teacher apprenticeship is still at the consult and confer stage between the employer and the unions, therefore it cannot start.

Board Chair Miyamae asked the Board if there were any questions. There were no questions from the Board.

III. PUBLIC TESTIMONY ON GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING AGENDA ITEMS

On-time and late written testimonies were submitted. No one else signed up for online or in-person public testimony.

The Board took a 10-minute recess and reconvened at 1:11 p.m.

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

NEW BUSINESS – Committee of the Whole

Board Chair Miyamae called for a motion for NBI 24-32 Revised. (Raymond / Gillentine)

UNAPPROVED

A. NBI 24-32 Revised: The Hawai'i Teacher Standards Board Election of Board Officers and Committee Assignments for 2025-2026

Board Chair Miyamae reviewed NBI 24-32 Revised, highlighting the addition of the three new Board Members.

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

Board Chair Miyamae called for a roll call vote on the motion of whether to approve or deny NBI 24-32 Revised, as written. The motion carried unanimously with Board Chair Miyamae and nine other Board Members present voting to approve NBI 24-32 Revised, as written. Excused from the vote were five Board Members: Arakaki, D'Olier, Dizon, Mew, Nihipali.

ACTION — NBI 24-32 Revised: The Hawai'i Teacher Standards Board Election of Board Officers and Committee Assignments for 2025-2026, as written, was adopted by the Board.

PENDING COMMITTEE ACTION – Teacher Standards Committee: Dr. Soares

The Teacher Standards Committee met at 9:00 a.m. and looked at two New Business Items.

B. NBI 25-21: License Affirmation (October and November 2025)

Board Member Dr. Soares briefly reviewed NBI 25-21.

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

Board Chair Miyamae called for a roll call vote on the motion of whether to approve or deny NBI 25-21, as written. The motion carried unanimously with Board Chair Miyamae and nine other Board Members present voting to approve NBI 25-21, as written. Excused from the vote were five Board Members: Arakaki, D'Olier, Dizon, Mew, Nihipali.

ACTION — NBI 25-21: License Affirmation (October and November 2025), as written, was adopted by the Board.

C. NBI 25-22: Policy on Hawaiian Permit Requirements, Program Responsibilities, and Review

Board Member Dr. Soares briefly reviewed NBI 25-22. She stated the Teacher Standards Committee voted to recommend deferring NBI 25-22, as written.

Board Chair Miyamae called for a roll call vote on the motion of deferring NBI 25-22, as written. The motion carried unanimously with Board Chair Miyamae and nine other Board Members present voting to defer NBI 25-22, as written. Excused from the vote were five Board Members: Arakaki, D'Olier, Dizon, Mew, Nihipali.

ACTION — NBI 25-22: Policy on Hawaiian Permit Requirements, Program Responsibilities, and Review, as written, was deferred.

PENDING COMMITTEE ACTION – Teacher Education Committee: Dr. Gillentine

UNAPPROVED

The Teacher Education Committee met at 9:48 a.m. and looked at two New Business Items.

D. NBI 25-23: The Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) Partnership Agreement

Board Member Dr. Gillentine briefly reviewed NBI 25-23. He stated the Teacher Education Committee voted to recommend NBI 25-23, as written, to the Board.

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

Board Chair Miyamae called for a roll call vote on the motion of whether to approve or deny NBI 25-23, as written. The motion carried unanimously with Board Chair Miyamae and nine other Board Members present voting to approve NBI 25-23, as written. Excused from the vote were five Board Members: Arakaki, D'Olier, Dizon, Mew, Nihipali.

ACTION — NBI 25-23: The Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) Partnership Agreement, as written, was adopted by the Board.

E. NBI 25-11: Approval of a One-Year Extension of iteach-Hawai'i's CAEP Accreditation

Board Member Dr. Gillentine briefly reviewed NBI 25-11. He stated the Teacher Education Committee voted to recommend NBI 25-11, as written, to the Board.

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

Board Chair Miyamae called for a roll call vote on the motion of whether to approve or deny NBI 25-11, as written. The motion carried unanimously with Board Chair Miyamae and nine other Board Members present voting to approve NBI 25-11, as written. Excused from the vote were five Board Members: Arakaki, D'Olier, Dizon, Mew, Nihipali.

ACTION — NBI 25-11: Approval of a One-Year Extension of iteach-Hawai'i's CAEP Accreditation, as written, was adopted by the Board.

V. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Board Chair Miyamae shared information regarding procedures for virtual Executive Session.

Board Chair Miyamae called for a motion to rise into Executive Session. (Raymond / Gillentine)

Board Chair Miyamae called for a roll call vote on the motion to rise into Executive Session. The motion carried unanimously with Board Chair Miyamae and nine other Board Members present to rise into Executive Session at 1:24 p.m. Excused from the vote were five Board Members: Arakaki, D'Olier, Dizon, Mew, Nihipali.

This portion of the meeting was a closed meeting under Hawaii Revised Statutes ("HRS") §92-4 and HRS §92-5(a)(1)(2) and (4).

Board Chair Miyamae called the general business meeting back to order at 3:13 p.m.

UNAPPROVED

Board Chair Miyamae reported out what was discussed during Executive Session:

- Meeting minutes from November 14, 2025
- Personnel update from ED Villalobos
- Consultation with Deputy Attorney General
- NBI 25-18: Case No. 25-02 – Adopted
- NBI 25-19: Case No. 25-03 – Adopted
- NBI 25-20: Case No. 25-04 – Adopted
- NBI 25-24: Case No. 25-05 – Adopted
- NBI 25-25: Case No. 25-06 – Adopted with amendments

VI. NEXT HTSB MEETING: March 13, 2026

Board Chairperson Miyamae stated the next HTSB board meeting was scheduled for March 13, 2026. The details of the agenda would come out prior to the meeting.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Board Chair Miyamae adjourned the general business meeting at 3:14 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
Kade Yam-Lum		IV.C. NBI 25-22: Policy on Hawaiian Permit Requirements, Program Responsibilities, and Review
Stephanie Furuta, PhD	University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, School of Teacher Education	I.F. HTSB Program Review Process Presentation
Andrew Rozell	iteach	IV.E. NBI 25-11: Approval of a One-Year Extension of iteach-Hawai'i's CAEP Accreditation
Michelle Brady	iteach Hawai'i	
Dr. Sara Cook	University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, College of Education, Department of Special Education	I.F. HTSB Program Review Process Presentation
Wendy Kalae Akioka	Hawai'i State Teachers Association, Hawaiian Education Committee	I.F. HTSB Program Review Process Presentation
Hope Pualani McKeen	Hawai'i State Teachers Association, Government Relations Committee	
Kahea Faria		IV.C. NBI 25-22: Policy on Hawaiian Permit Requirements, Program Responsibilities, and Review
Kananinohea Māka'imoku	'Aha Kauleo Statewide Council for Ka Papahana Kaiapuni	IV.C. NBI 25-22: Policy on Hawaiian Permit Requirements, Program Responsibilities, and Review
Kananinohea Māka'imoku		IV.C. NBI 25-22: Policy on Hawaiian Permit Requirements, Program Responsibilities, and Review
Wendy Kalae Akioka	Hawai'i State Teachers Association, Hawaiian Education Committee	IV.C. NBI 25-22: Policy on Hawaiian Permit Requirements, Program Responsibilities, and Review
Hope Pualani McKeen	Hawai'i State Teachers Association, Government Relations Committee	
Dr. Christina Keaulana	Leeward Community College	I.F. HTSB Program Review Process Presentation

LATE WRITTEN TESTIMONY for General Business Meeting		
NAME	ORGANIZATION	AGENDA ITEM
Kahea Faria		I.F. HTSB Program Review Process Presentation

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Simeona Tajiri	Lānaʻi High and Elementary School	IV.C. NBI 25-22: Policy on Hawaiian Permit Requirements, Program Responsibilities, and Review
Kauʻi Sang	Hawaiʻi Department of Education, Office of Hawaiian Education	IV.C. NBI 25-22: Policy on Hawaiian Permit Requirements, Program Responsibilities, and Review
Kauʻi Sang	Hawaiʻi Department of Education, Office of Hawaiian Education	I.F. HTSB Program Review Process Presentation
<i>[requested no personal information]</i>	Ke Kula Kaiapuni ʻo Pūʻōhala	IV.C. NBI 25-22: Policy on Hawaiian Permit Requirements, Program Responsibilities, and Review