



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

**MINUTES**

Remote Technology via Zoom

650 Iwilei Road, Suite 158  
Honolulu, HI 96817

Friday, August 8, 2025

**PRESENT IN-PERSON:**

Kristi Miyamae, Board Chairperson  
Dr. Jonathan Gillentine

**PRESENT ONLINE:**

Dondra Ozaki, Board Vice Chairperson  
Deanna D'Olier  
Dale Matsuura  
Justin Mew  
Dawn Raymond  
Dr. Cecily Ornelles, in place of Dr. Jamie Simpson Steele for Dr. Nathan Murata  
Dr. Katina Soares  
Erika Vincent for Ka'ohinani Daniels

**EXCUSED:**

Sean Bacon for Keith Hayashi  
Kahele Dukelow for Roy Takumi

**ALSO PRESENT:**

Felicia Villalobos, Board Executive Director  
Steven Harada, Licensing Specialist  
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 Chairperson Kristi Miyamae called the Hawai'i Teacher Standards Board (HTSB) general business meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

Board Chairperson Miyamae iterated HTSB's Mission and Vision. She shared information regarding procedures for virtual board meetings, then called roll call and established quorum. Board Chairperson Miyamae and Board Member Dr. Jonathan Gillentine were present in-person. Board Vice Chairperson Dondra Ozaki; Board Members Deanna D'Olier, Dale Matsuura, Justin Mew, Dawn Raymond, and Erika Vincent; and Dr. Cecily Ornelles were present online. Board Members Sean Bacon and Kahele Dukelow were excused. Board Member Dr. Katina Soares was not present at roll call.

Board Chairperson Miyamae shared information regarding non-public site disclosure. None of the Board Members participating online had anyone present with them to disclose. Board Chairperson Miyamae shared additional information regarding meeting protocols and procedures.

*Board Member Soares joined the meeting remotely via Zoom.*

**B. PUBLIC TESTIMONY ON GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING AGENDA ITEMS**

Dr. Lori Fulton from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (UH Mānoa) College of Education (COE) provided information via Zoom on NBI 25-07: The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa American Samoa Completers regarding UH Mānoa's American Samoa (AS) program.

**C. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Board Chairperson Miyamae welcomed back Board Members Gillentine and Raymond, as well as Dr. Ornelles, who would be filling in at times for Board Member Simpson Steele.

**D. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**

The minutes of the March 28, 2025, and April 25, 2025, meetings were approved as written.

**E. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Board Chairperson Miyamae introduced Executive Director Felicia Villalobos to share her report. Villalobos stated her report consisted of data and survey results from the entire 2024-2025 school year, which would be used to help determine where Hawai'i teachers needed more support, as well as how Hawai'i educator preparation programs (EPPs) could be better supported by HTSB pertaining to Hawaii Administrative Rules (HAR) and Hawai'i-specific requirements. Villalobos also highlighted the following from her report:

- Highest number of logins in HTSB's licensing management system (LMS) were January, June, and July.
- Highest number of licenses and permits were issued in July.
- Concerningly high number of emergency hires in elementary education and counseling, meaning students were being taught by individuals who did not go through a state-approved teacher education program (SATEP).

## APPROVED

- The need for a central data system to be implemented with public charter schools for better faculty information-gathering, as it was currently being done manually.
- The number of Hawai'i Department of Education (HIDOE) teachers employed and teaching without a valid license or permit dropped to zero with the help of the NEOED system.
- The collected survey data regarding which state a SATEP was approved for licensure in could help HIDOE with recruitment.
- The need for teachers to understand the difference between the profession-specific Model Code of Ethics for Educators (MCEE) and the state ethics compliance, which was required for all state workers.

Board Chairperson Miyamae asked the full board (Board) if they had any questions or discussion. There were no questions or discussion from the Board. Board Chairperson Miyamae asked Villalobos to continue her update on the following conferences:

- **Attended National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification (NASDTEC) Annual Conference**

Villalobos highlighted that this conference brought all the licensing agencies from across the country together. She stated Board Members and HTSB staff could make connections with staff from these other agencies and hear about national trends.

Board Member Raymond shared that one-third of new teachers in Colorado leave the profession within the first five years, and that 37% of Colorado's districts have mentor programs. Board Vice Chairperson Ozaki stated she was interested to hear what other states were doing to address teacher retention, as pay and support were always attractions to the profession. Board Member Soares shared her observation that many states seemed to be lowering their bars to address their teacher shortages. She commended the Board for keeping its bar high because teacher quality was important.

Villalobos shared that HTSB received compliments from executive directors of other licensing agencies for bringing Board Members to this conference.

- **HTSB Summer Summit and Strategic Planning Update**

Villalobos shared that HTSB received many compliments from stakeholders for the networking opportunities that the Summer Summit provided. She stated staff was currently working on synthesizing all the information from the summit.

Board Member Raymond thanked Villalobos and staff for giving the Board this opportunity. Board Member Gillentine thanked staff and shared that asking stakeholders for their input was very valuable. Board Chairperson Miyamae thanked Villalobos and staff, sharing that it was always interesting speaking with stakeholders and hearing their perspectives.

Licensing Specialist Dr. Jennifer Padua thanked the EPPs for showing their commitment and helping HTSB improve teacher quality and licensure. Villalobos thanked Hawai'i Pacific University (HPU) for hosting the summit. She also thanked Licensing Specialist Kaulana Molina, NBCT, and staff. She shared that a post-summit survey comment indicated that stakeholders now understood licensing better.

- **National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) – Board Member Raymond and Licensing Specialist Dr. Mitzie Higa**

Board Member Raymond shared that many of the sessions at this conference focused on artificial intelligence (AI), highlighting that a challenge and concern was not having the respective professions at the table when designing AI, especially for health and education. She also highlighted that Massachusetts was regarded as having one of the best education systems in the world, but student attendance was one of their challenges.

## **II. PUBLIC TESTIMONY ON GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING AGENDA ITEMS**

On-time written testimony was submitted. No one else signed up for online or in-person public testimony.

### **A. LICENSING UPDATE – Licensing Specialist Kaulana Molina, NBCT**

Board Chairperson Miyamae introduced Molina to share the licensing update. Molina highlighted that staff delivered a variety of licensing presentations across the state from May through July and were also required to expedite license and permit processing due to new payroll deadlines from HIDOE. She stated HTSB launched its multi-factor authentication (MFA) system as of August 1, 2025.

Board Chairperson Miyamae acknowledged staff's daunting task of ensuring teachers were licensed in time.

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

Board Chairperson Miyamae introduced Villalobos to share an update on registered teacher apprenticeship on behalf of Licensing Specialist Dr. Mitzie Higa. Villalobos highlighted that the second year of the pre-apprenticeship Educators Rising Pilot program began, with about 300 students participating in the Teaching as a Profession (TAP) pathway. She thanked Dr. Janet Kim from UH Mānoa for working with and putting together an event on Statehood Day for the TAP teachers and Educators Rising program creators. She expressed that the hope is for this pre-apprenticeship program to be the bridge to the registered teacher apprenticeship program. She then highlighted that one year had passed for the \$4.6 million federal three-year grant that was sitting with the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR). She explained that this money would support a pilot program to help gather data to receive different funding for registered teacher apprenticeship. She stated HIDOE and the Hawai'i State Teachers Association (HSTA) were still in the consult and confer process for the grant. She also shared that Board Chairperson Miyamae worked with a notary during the summer to get contracts notarized.

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

## **III. PUBLIC TESTIMONY ON GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING AGENDA ITEMS**

On-time written testimony was submitted. No one else signed up for online or in-person public testimony.

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

**COMMITTEE REPORT – Budget, Personnel, and Strategic Planning Committee: Mew**

The Budget, Personnel, and Strategic Planning Committee met at 9:02 a.m.; however, quorum was not established. The two New Business Items (NBIs) were deferred to the September 12, 2025, board meeting.

**PENDING COMMITTEE ACTION – Legislative Committee: Raymond**

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

**C. NBI 25-02: HTSB’s 2026 Legislative Priorities**

Board Member Raymond stated the Legislative Committee voted to recommend NBI 25-02, as written, to the Board. She reviewed NBI 25-02, highlighting that the priorities help HTSB focus on the most crucial issues that align with its Mission and Vision.

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

Board Chairperson Miyamae called for a roll call vote on the motion of whether to approve or deny NBI 25-02, as written. Board Chairperson Miyamae and Board Member Mew did not vote. All other Board Members present voted to approve NBI 25-02, as written.

**ACTION — As quorum was not met, NBI 25-02: HTSB’s 2026 Legislative Priorities was deferred to the September 12, 2025, board meeting.**

**D. NBI 25-03: Permitted Interaction Group for the 2026 Legislative Session**

Board Member Raymond stated the Legislative Committee voted to recommend NBI 25-03, as written, to the Board. She reviewed NBI 25-03, highlighting the advantages of the Permitted Interaction Group (P.I.G.) and its on-call schedule from January through May.

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

Board Chairperson Miyamae called for a roll call vote on the motion of whether to approve or deny NBI 25-03, as written. Board Chairperson Miyamae did not vote. The motion carried unanimously with all other Board Members present voting to approve NBI 25-03, as written.

**ACTION — NBI 25-03: Permitted Interaction Group for the 2026 Legislative Session, as written, was adopted by the Board.**

**PENDING COMMITTEE ACTION – Teacher Standards Committee: Dr. Soares**

The Teacher Standards Committee met at 10:30 a.m. and looked at two New Business Items.

**E. NBI 25-01: License Affirmation (April-June 2025)**

## APPROVED

Board Member Soares reviewed NBI 25-01, affirming the licenses and permits for the respective months. She stated the Teacher Standards Committee voted to recommend NBI 25-01, as written, to the Board.

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

Board Chairperson Miyamae called for a roll call vote on the motion of whether to approve or deny NBI 25-01, as written. Board Chairperson Miyamae did not vote. The motion carried unanimously with all other Board Members present voting to approve NBI 25-01, as written.

**ACTION — NBI 25-01: License Affirmation (April-June 2025), as written, was adopted by the Board.**

**F. NBI 25-04: Implementation of The National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements and Clarification of Out-of-State Teacher Preparation Programs in Hawai'i**

Board Member Soares reviewed NBI 25-04, highlighting that it revises HTSB's policy on out-of-state EPPs to align with the federal National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (NC-SARA). She stated the goal is to protect students and ensure the rigor of teacher licensure in Hawai'i. She mentioned Villalobos provided additional information during the committee meeting and would defer to her for clarification. She stated the Teacher Standards Committee voted to recommend NBI 25-04, as written, to the Board.

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

Board Chairperson Miyamae called for a roll call vote on the motion of whether to approve or deny NBI 25-04, as written. Board Chairperson Miyamae did not vote. The motion carried unanimously with all other Board Members present voting to approve NBI 25-04, as written.

**ACTION — NBI 25-04: Implementation of The National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements and Clarification of Out-of-State Teacher Preparation Programs in Hawai'i, as written, was adopted by the Board.**

## **PENDING COMMITTEE ACTION – Teacher Education Committee: Dr. Gillentine**

The Teacher Education Committee met at 11:15 a.m. and looked at three New Business Items.

**G. NBI 25-05: Results and Recommendations from HTSB Annual Educator Preparation Provider Completer Audit School Year 2023-2024**

Board Member Gillentine reviewed NBI 25-05, which outlines the process, results, and recommendations from HTSB's EPP completer audit for the 2023-2024 school year. He stated the Teacher Education Committee voted to recommend NBI 25-05, as written, to the Board.

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

## APPROVED

Board Chairperson Miyamae called for a roll call vote on the motion of whether to approve or deny NBI 25-05, as written. Board Chairperson Miyamae did not vote. The motion carried unanimously with all other Board Members present voting to approve NBI 25-05, as written.

**ACTION — NBI 25-05: Results and Recommendations from HTSB Annual Educator Preparation Provider Completer Audit School Year 2023-2024, as written, was adopted by the Board.**

### **H. NBI 25-06: Final Completion Pathway for Teach Away-Hawai'i Candidates Affected by Program Closure**

Board Member Gillentine reviewed NBI 25-06, which includes the support from HPU, Chaminade University, and UH Mānoa who are willing to assist in supporting Teach Away candidates that were affected by the program shutting down. He stated the Teacher Education Committee voted to recommend NBI 25-06, as written, to the Board.

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

Board Chairperson Miyamae called for a roll call vote on the motion of whether to approve or deny NBI 25-06, as written. Board Chairperson Miyamae did not vote. The motion carried unanimously with all other Board Members present voting to approve NBI 25-06, as written.

**ACTION — NBI 25-06: Final Completion Pathway for Teach Away-Hawai'i Candidates Affected by Program Closure, as written, was adopted by the Board.**

### **I. NBI 25-07: The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa American Samoa Completers**

Board Member Gillentine reviewed NBI 25-07, which includes the procedures for completers in UH Mānoa's AS Bachelor of Education (BEd) program. It also clarifies how transcripts would identify whether or not the candidate completed a SATEP. He stated the Teacher Education Committee voted to recommend NBI 25-07, as written, to the Board.

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

Board Chairperson Miyamae called for a roll call vote on the motion of whether to approve or deny NBI 25-07, as written. Board Chairperson Miyamae did not vote. Dr. Ornelles voted to abstain. The motion carried with all other Board Members present voting to approve NBI 25-07, as written.

**ACTION — NBI 25-07: The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa American Samoa Completers, as written, was adopted by the Board.**

## **V. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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

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

## APPROVED

*Board Member Vincent left the meeting remotely via Zoom.*

Board Chairperson Miyamae called for a roll call vote on the motion of whether or not to rise into Executive Session. Board Chairperson Miyamae did not vote. Board Member Vincent was not present. All other Board Members present voted to rise into Executive Session at 2:04 p.m.

Quorum was not met.

***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 Chairperson Miyamae called the general business meeting back to order at 2:35 p.m.

Board Chairperson Miyamae reported out what was discussed during Executive Session, but would be deferred to the September 12, 2025, board meeting:

- Meeting minutes from April 25, 2025
- Personnel update from Villalobos
- Consultation with Deputy Attorney General Amber Boll
- NBI 25-08: Case No. 25-01

### **VI. NEXT HTSB MEETING: September 12, 2025**

Board Chairperson Miyamae stated the next HTSB board meeting was scheduled for September 12, 2025. The details of the agenda would come out prior to the meeting.

### **VII. ADJOURNMENT**

Board Chairperson Miyamae adjourned the general business meeting at 2:38 p.m.

**APPROVED**

**List of people who submitted written testimony before the meeting**

<b><i>ON-TIME TESTIMONY</i></b>		
<b>NAME</b>	<b>ORGANIZATION</b>	<b>AGENDA ITEM</b>
Lori Fulton, PhD	University of Hawai'i at Mānoa – Professor and Associate Chair, School of Teacher Education	IV.I. NBI 25-07: The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa American Samoa Completers