



**STATE OF HAWAII
HAWAII TEACHER STANDARDS BOARD
LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

MINUTES

Remote Technology via Zoom

650 Iwilei Road, Suite 158
Honolulu, HI 96817

Friday, April 24, 2026

PRESENT IN-PERSON:

Kristi Miyamae, Ex Officio Committee Member, Board Chair

PRESENT ONLINE:

Dawn Raymond, Committee Chair
Kahele Dukelow for Roy Takumi, Committee Vice Chair
Dale Matsuura, Committee Member
Dr. Katina Soares, Committee Member
Dondra Ozaki, Ex Officio Committee Member, Board Vice Chair

NOT PRESENT:

Dr. Jamie Simpson Steele for Dr. Nathan Murata, Committee Member

ALSO PRESENT:

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

Committee Chair Dawn Raymond called the Hawai'i Teacher Standards Board ("HTSB") Legislative Committee ("Committee") meeting to order at 10:11 a.m.

Committee Chair Raymond iterated HTSB's Mission and Vision. She shared information regarding procedures for virtual committee meetings, then called roll call and established quorum. Ex Officio Committee Member Kristi Miyamae was present in-person. Committee Chair Raymond, Committee Vice Chair Kahele Dukelow, Committee Members Dale Matsuura and Dr. Katina Soares, and Ex Officio Committee Member Dondra Ozaki were present online. Committee Member Dr. Jamie Simpson Steele was not present.

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

B. PUBLIC TESTIMONY ON COMMITTEE AGENDA ITEMS

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

C. ANNOUNCEMENTS

No announcements were made.

D. APPROVAL OF COMMITTEE MINUTES

The minutes of the August 8, 2025, meeting was approved as written.

II. PUBLIC TESTIMONY ON COMMITTEE AGENDA ITEMS

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

III. ACTION / DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Update: Board Members Appointments and Reappointments to the Board

Committee Chair Raymond updated the committee about the HTSB full Board ("Board") members.

New appointments starting on July 1, 2026, Logan Okita and Principal Komarey Moss.

Reappointed Board member: Dr. Jonathan Gillentine.

Officially appointed Board members: Daphne Okunaga and Principal Dale Arakaki.

Non-reappointed or not returning Board members:

Public School Teacher and HTSB Board Chair Kristie Miyamae,
Teacher Standards Committee Chair and Principal Dr. Katina Soares,
Public Charter School Teacher Natasha Nihipali,

Public School Teacher and Legislative Committee Chair Dawn Raymond, and Budget, Personnel, and Strategic Plan Committee Chair and Principal Justin Mew.

Committee Chair Raymond expressed having the privilege and honor to serve and work alongside the committee chairs and appreciated their integrity.

ACTION — No action was taken on this update item.

B. Discussion: Legislative Permitted Interaction Group Update

Committee Chair Raymond provided an update on the legislative permitted interaction group ("PIG"). Committee Chair Raymond reviewed the Bill tracker and NBI 25-02 HTSB's Legislative Priority approved on September 12, 2025. Committee Chair Raymond highlighted that the approval of NBI 25-02 gave the PIG authority to focus on bills within the Board's purview and legislative priorities, which guided the decision to take a position in support or opposition against a bill.

Committee Chair Raymond asked the Committee if there were any questions or discussion. There were no questions or discussions from the Committee.

ACTION — No action was taken on this discussion item.

C. NBI 25-45: Completion of the 2026 Legislative Permitted Interaction Group's Work

Committee Chair Raymond reviewed NBI 25-45, highlighting the PIG's work which consistently tracked and aligned measures with the Board's legislative priorities, submitted official testimony to support HTSB strategic priorities, and provided prompt consultation to HTSB Staff to ensure there is a unified voice on all legislative inquiries.

Committee Chair Raymond thanked HTSB Staff Licensing Specialist Kris Murakami and Licensing Specialist Mitzie Higa for assisting the PIG.

Committee Chair Raymond asked if the Committee had any questions or comments about the NBI.

Committee Member Matsuura shared that it was her first time participating in the PIG and expressed her gratitude to the HTSB staff for receiving the nightly reminders about contributing to the group.

Committee Member Dr. Soares made a statement about her experience of being in the PIG group last year. She mentioned the work is dynamic and on call, and the response needs to be quick. She also thanked everyone for their service and the pleasure of working alongside them.

Ex Officio Committee Member Miyamae made a statement about her time here with the Board. She expressed the decisions that were made, and at times it was tough because people had their own agendas that they wanted to push forward. She explained that going back to HTSB's vision and mission, and the importance of taking care of our students.

Ex Officio Committee Member Miyamae said that moving forward will be tough and asked Chair Raymond if Executive Director (ED) Villalobos could give some suggestions.

Chair Raymond deferred to ED Villalobos.

ED Villalobos explained the process of the PIG group was to focus on the legislative priorities. They worked night and day to exchange drafts back and forth. She mentioned that HTSB staff do not approve anything and submit information on behalf of the PIG. She suggested that next year's PIG members go testify in person and review the budget to support this effort. It appears that the legislature would like Board members to testify in person. ED Villalobos explained that this year's PIG members were in-service teachers, which meant time away from the classroom. She explained that the Board provides substitute teachers. ED Villalobos expressed appreciation to the PIG, as, on top of their full-time job, they wrote all the testimonies aligned with the Board priorities and checked their phones and emails to ensure the testimonies were submitted on time. She explained that next year the process will be the same, with the priorities going before the committee and the board for final approval, and then the PIG will go forth with the priorities.

Committee Chair Raymond thanked ED Villalobos and will announce this information at the General Board meeting.

Committee Chair Raymond asked if the Committee had any questions or comments about the NBI. No recommendations or questions were made.

Committee Chair Raymond called for a roll call vote on whether or not to recommend NBI 25-45, as written, to the Board at the general business meeting scheduled at 2:45 p.m.

AYE (6) Raymond, Dukelow, Matsuura, Soares, Miyamae, Ozaki

NAY (0)

NOT PRESENT (1) Simpson Steele

ACTION — The Legislative Committee voted to recommend NBI 25-45, as written, to the Board.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

Committee Chair Raymond adjourned the Legislative Committee Meeting at 10:25 a.m.