


[EXTERNAL] Testimony in Support - NBI 25-42

From D Raymond <[REDACTED]>

Date Fri 5/29/2026 8:13 AM

To HTSB <htsb@hawaii.gov>

 1 attachment (39 KB)

FV.pdf;

Good morning -

Please see the attached. I am submitting testimony in support for NBI 25-42 Executive Director Recommendation.

Please confirm receipt of attachment.

Thank you,
Dawn Raymond

Sent from my iPhone

May 1, 2026

It is my pleasure to write this letter in support of Felicia Villalobos. Throughout her tenure as Executive Director for the Hawai'i Teacher Standards Board, Felicia has consistently demonstrated exceptional professionalism, strategic leadership, and a deep commitment to strengthening Hawai'i's educator workforce with licensed educators and educational systems.

One of Felicia's greatest strengths is her ability to foster meaningful collaboration and build strong partnerships across organizations, schools, and communities. She works effectively with a broad range of stakeholders, including educators, school leaders, preparation programs, policymakers, and community partners. Felicia approaches collaboration with respect, transparency, and a solutions-oriented mindset, which has helped cultivate trust and productive working relationships that advance shared educational goals.

Felicia also demonstrates a strong understanding of and commitment to adherence with Hawai'i Revised Statutes (HRS) and Hawai'i Administrative Rules (HAR). She consistently ensures that the work of the Hawai'i Teacher Standards Board is aligned with statutory and regulatory requirements while maintaining integrity, accountability, and fairness in decision-making processes. Her careful attention to policy compliance and governance reflects both her professionalism and her dedication to public service.

In addition, Felicia has shown strong leadership in supporting the Board's development, interpretation, and implementation of policies and procedures that align with HTSB's mission and vision. She brings thoughtful analysis and consistency to policy discussions and implementation efforts, helping ensure that Board actions are equitable, transparent, and supportive of educator quality statewide. Her ability to translate policy into effective practice has contributed significantly to the organization's operational effectiveness and long-term strategic goals.

Felicia has also played an important role in maintaining high standards for teacher quality across Hawai'i. She understands the importance of strong teacher preparation, licensure integrity, and professional practice standards in building an effective educator workforce. Through her leadership, she has supported systems and initiatives that promote educator excellence while balancing accountability with support for teachers and preparation programs.

Another area where Felicia has made a meaningful impact is in teacher pathway development and workforce sustainability. She has been a strong advocate for innovative strategies that strengthen the educator pipeline, including initiatives such as

Educators Rising and the Registered Teacher Apprenticeship Program. Her forward-thinking approach and commitment to expanding pathways into the profession help address workforce needs while creating opportunities for aspiring educators across Hawai'i. These efforts contribute significantly to building and sustaining a strong, diverse, and highly qualified educator workforce for the future.

Beyond her professional accomplishments, Felicia is a thoughtful, dedicated, and compassionate leader who genuinely cares about students, educators, and the broader community. She leads with integrity, professionalism, and a collaborative spirit that inspires confidence and respect among colleagues and partners alike.

I strongly support Felicia Villalobos and believe her leadership, expertise, and commitment to educational excellence make her an invaluable asset to the Hawai'i Teacher Standards Board and the educational community as a whole.

Sincerely,

Dawn Raymond
Hawai'i Teacher Standards Board Member &
Special Education Teacher