



HAWAII TEACHER STANDARDS BOARD

September 25, 2009

URGENT

Dear Colleague,

The Hawaii Teacher Standards Board office has recently been inundated by calls and emails from teachers alarmed by the contents of an email initiated by a teacher who seemingly misunderstood very critical information. The email and its attachment contain inaccurate statements that the Board wants to correct to set the record straight.

First, **September 30, 2009 is NOT the deadline for teachers to submit their requests for extension.** As discussed at all our statewide license renewal presentations, **all teachers whose license expires on or prior to September 30, 2009, are eligible for one last extension.** These teachers must download the extension application form from the HTSB website <http://www.htsb.org/forms/> , and complete and submit it as soon as possible.

Second, **the Board is not requiring teachers who do not extend their license by September 30th to retake the Praxis test.** The **Praxis test was never discussed in the context of in-service teachers applying for an extension or renewal.** It was only mentioned in response to specific questions about those who retire and choose to let their license lapse. In this scenario, teachers were urged to keep their license current because a) many retirees decide to return to teach or mentor for the Department of Education, which requires them to hold a valid license; and b) they risk having to meet the licensing requirements at the time they return to teaching and this may entail taking and passing licensing tests.

We hope this information sets your mind at ease and recommend that in the future you rely on official HTSB-prepared documents as your primary source of licensing information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jonathan Gillentine".

Jonathan Gillentine
Chairperson