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## **HAWAII GETS FAILING MARKS FOR TEACHER POLICIES IN NEW REPORT-- LABELED 'LAST IN CLASS'**

—Today the National Council on Teacher Quality released a 50-state encyclopedia on states' teacher policies, concluding that many of Hawaii's policies are counterproductive to the nation's teacher quality goals—

Washington, DC -- The *State Teacher Policy Yearbook* is the first project of its kind to provide a 360-degree detailed analysis of how states are hurting or helping teacher quality—and what they can do to fix broken and anachronistic policies.

Hawaii ranks at the very bottom of states and was awarded no grade higher than a “D” in any of the six areas of teacher quality assessed. Overall, the state earned grades of four D's and two F's.

“Hawaii's policies, like all states', are in need of a massive overhaul,” said Kate Walsh, president of NCTQ. “It's time to turn in the gas-guzzling clunker in exchange for the hybrid.”

Among the findings:

- The state makes it extremely difficult for qualified individuals from other fields to switch to a career in teaching.
- Hawaii neglects the preparation of special education teachers, failing to ensure that these teachers are adequately prepared to teach students with disabilities.
- The state does not require its teachers to be evaluated annually.

Despite these bleak findings, there are some bright spots. Unlike many states, Hawaii requires applicants to its education schools to pass a basic skills test. The state also has the necessary systems in place to implement an effective teacher evaluation system based on student growth and performance.

To download copies of the Hawaii report, which includes national comparisons, or to purchase printed copies of the report, visit the NCTQ website, [www.nctq.org](http://www.nctq.org). For

questions about the report, please contact Lisa Cohen at (310) 395-2544 or [lisa@lisacohen.org](mailto:lisa@lisacohen.org) or Molly Jackman at (202) 393-0020 (X 15) or [mjackman@nctq.org](mailto:mjackman@nctq.org).

NCTQ--comprised of reform-minded Democrats, Republicans, and Independents--advocates for reforms in a broad range of teacher policies and seeks to lend transparency and accountability to the three institutions that have the greatest impact on teacher quality: state governments, colleges of education, and teachers' unions.

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