

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

1156

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 22 2007

RE: H.B. No. 777
H.D. 2
S.D. 1

Honorable Colleen Hanabusa
President of the Senate
Twenty-Fourth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2007
State of Hawaii

Madam:

Your Committee on Education, to which was referred H.B.
No. 777, H.D. 2, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE HAWAII EDUCATOR LOAN
PROGRAM,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to recruit and retain
qualified teachers for employment in hard-to fill positions in
public schools through the appropriation of funds for the Hawaii
Educator Loan Program.

Testimony in support of this measure was submitted by the
University of Hawaii and the Hawaii State Teachers Association.
Comments on the measure were also submitted by the Department of
Education.

Your Committee finds that pursuant to Act 307, Session Laws
of Hawaii 2001, the Legislature established the Hawaii Educator
Loan Program. The program is administered by the University of
Hawaii and was established as a tool for recruiting students to
become educators and teach in hard-to-fill positions in public
schools in the State. Your Committee further finds that the
current teacher shortage problem has also highlighted the need for
teachers in public schools located in rural areas throughout the
State. Your Committee believes that the establishment of a
similar loan forgiveness program within the Department of
Education, geared towards filling positions in rural areas

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throughout the State, would greatly assist the Department of Education in its recruitment and retention efforts.

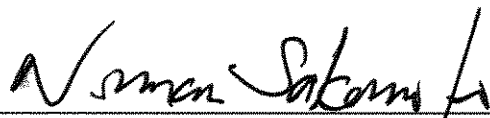
Additionally, your Committee recognizes that schedules for the reduction of loan repayment amounts for the Department of Education and the University of Hawaii loan forgiveness programs are also necessary to truly incentivize the programs.

Accordingly, your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Including a new section that establishes the Educator Loan Forgiveness Program and Special Fund within the Department of Education for teachers who teach in the Hawaii public school system at schools located in rural areas;
- (2) Appropriating funds for the Educator Loan Forgiveness Program;
- (3) Changing the loan forgiveness schedule for the Hawaii Educator Loan Program to require twenty-five per cent of the total amount of the loan and interest to be waived every year for the sixth and seventh years of repayment that a loan recipient works in a hard-to-fill position; and
- (4) Making technical, nonsubstantive changes for purposes of clarity and style.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Education that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 777, H.D. 2, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 777, H.D. 2, S.D. 1, and be referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

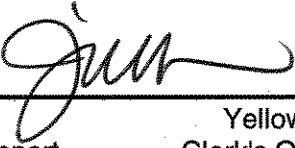
Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Education,


NORMAN SAKAMOTO, Chair



The Senate
Twenty-Fourth Legislature
State of Hawaii

Record of Votes
Committee on Education
EDU

Bill / Resolution No.:*	Committee Referral:	Date:
HB 777 HD2	EDU, WARR	19 03/15/07
<input type="checkbox"/> The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____		
The Recommendation is:		
<input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311	<input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)
SAKAMOTO, Norman (C)	X	
TOKUDA, Jill N. (VC)	X	
CHUN OAKLAND, Suzanne	X	
HEE, Clayton		
NISHIHARA, Clarence K.		
TANIGUCHI, Brian T.		
GABBARD, Mike	X	
TOTAL	4	0 0 3
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted		
Chair's or Designee's Signature: 		
Distribution: Original Yellow Pink File with Committee Report Clerk's Office Drafting Agency		

*Only one measure per Record of Votes