STAND. COM. REP. NO.

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Honolulu, Hawaii MAR 19 ' <sup>2021</sup>

RE: H.C.R. No. 32

Honorable Scott K. Saiki Speaker, House of Representatives Thirty-First State Legislature Regular Session of 2021 State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Education, to which was referred H.C.R. No. 32 entitled:

"HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT A PROGRAM TO RECRUIT AND EMPLOY QUALIFIED BLIND PERSONS TO SERVE AS ORIENTATION AND MOBILITY INSTRUCTORS AND IN OTHER POSITIONS AS TEACHERS OF VISUALLY IMPAIRED STUDENTS,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to urge the Department of Education to develop and implement an affirmative action program designed to recruit and employ qualified blind professionals to serve as orientation and mobility instructors and in other positions as teachers of visually impaired students.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Disability and Communication Access Board and six individuals. Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Department of Human Services.

Your Committee finds that, up until recently, the Department of Education only accepted the Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialist certification. The Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialist certification is a training method that provides a vision-centered approach to orientation and mobility services and emphasizes instructors who are sighted.

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Your Committee, however, further finds that another training method--the National Orientation and Mobility Certification-utilizes methods and principles from decades of lived experiences, attitudes, and techniques of blind persons and emphasizes instructors who are blind. It is considered a best practice to hire individuals with the National Orientation and Mobility Certification. While the Hawaii Teachers Standards Board has begun to accept the National Orientation and Mobility Certification, this has not led to an increased reliance on blind instructors and the Department of Education does not currently employ any instructors with the National Orientation and Mobility Certification. This measure will provide students who are blind or vision impaired with greater access to various training methods.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Education that is attached to this report, your Committee concurs with the intent and purpose of H.C.R. No. 32 and recommends that it be referred to your Committee on Finance.

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

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## State of Hawaii House of Representatives The Thirty-first Legislature



## **Record of Votes of the Committee on Education**

Bill/Resolution No.: HCR るス	Committee Referral: Date: 3/11/202		21	
The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on the measure.				
The recommendation is to: Image: Pass, unamended (as is) Image: Pass, with amendments (HD) Image: Hold   Image: Pass short form bill with HD to recommit for future public hearing (recommit)				
EDN Members	Ayes	Ayes (WR)	Nays	Excused
1. WOODSON, Justin H. (C)				
2. KAPELA, Jeanne (VC)				
3. BELATTI, Della Au				
4. DeCOITE, Lynn				
5. GANADEN, Sonny	/			
6. GATES, Cedric Asuega	/			
7. HASHIMOTO, Troy N.			1.49	
8. OHNO, Takashi	/			
9. QUINLAN, Sean	- /			
10. TAKAYAMA, Gregg				
11. YAMANE, Ryan I.				
12. OKIMOTO, Val				
TOTAL (12)	11	D	0	ZI
The recommendation is: Image: Adopted image: Adopt				
Vice Chair's or designee's signature:				
Distribution: Original (White) - Committee Duplicate (Yellow) - Chief Clerk's Office Duplicate (Pink) - HMSO				