

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 268

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 17 2021

RE: S.B. No. 245

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Thirty-First State Legislature
Regular Session of 2021
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committees on Education and Higher Education, to which was referred S.B. No. 245 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION,"

beg leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to require the Department of Education's existing Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) working group to create a state plan to make completion of the FAFSA, or an opt-out waiver, a statewide graduation requirement by the 2023-2024 school year and report to the 2022 Legislature and various public school leaders.

Your Committees received testimony in support of this measure from the Maui Chamber of Commerce. Your Committees received testimony in opposition to this measure from three individuals. Your Committees received comments on this measure from Department of Education and Office of Information Practices.

Your Committees find that Hawaii left \$10,000,000 in federal Pell Grants unclaimed in 2018, which is enough to send roughly twenty-five hundred students to a University of Hawaii community college tuition-free. Nationally, nearly \$2,600,000,000 in federal financial aid for higher education went unused by high school graduates from the class of 2018 who were eligible for a federal Pell Grant but did not complete the FAFSA application. When students do not apply for federal student aid, many students may revert to private student loans, which often have high



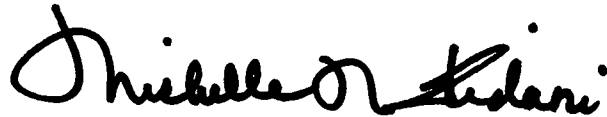
interest rates and lack the consumer protections of federal student loans. This measure creating a working group to increase awareness about FAFSA will help students successfully obtain federal funds and get the financial aid that they need to pursue higher education.

As affirmed by the records of votes of the members of your Committees on Education and Higher Education that are attached to this report, your Committees are in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 245 and recommend that it pass Second Reading and be referred to your Committee on Ways and Means.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committees on Education and
Higher Education,



DONNA MERCADO KIM, Chair



MICHELLE N. KIDANI, Chair



The Senate
Thirty-First Legislature
State of Hawai'i


Record of Votes
Committee on Education
EDU

Bill / Resolution No.:*	Committee Referral:	Date:		
SB 245	EDU/HRE.WAM	02/10/2021		
<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312	<input type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311	<input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310	<input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313	
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
KIDANI, Michelle N. (C)	/			
KIM, Donna Mercado (VC)	/			
DELA CRUZ, Donovan M.	/			
KANUHA, Dru Mamo	/			
FEVELLA, Kurt	/			
TOTAL	5			
Recommendation:				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted		<input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted		
Chair's or Designee's Signature:				
Distribution:				
Original File with Committee Report	Yellow Clerk's Office	Pink Drafting Agency	Goldenrod Committee File Copy	

*Only one measure per Record of Votes

The Senate
 Thirty-First Legislature
 State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Higher Education
HRE

Bill / Resolution No.:* <i>SB 245</i>	Committee Referral: <i>EDU/HRE, WAM</i>	Date: <i>2-10-21</i>		
<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
KIM, Donna Mercado (C)	✓			
KIDANI, Michelle N. (VC)	✓			
KEITH-AGARAN, Gilbert S.C.	✓			
WAKAI, Glenn				✓
FEVELLA, Kurt	✓			
TOTAL	4	0	0	1
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: 				
Distribution: Original Yellow Pink Goldenrod File with Committee Report Clerk's Office Drafting Agency Committee File Copy				

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