

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

1271

Honolulu, Hawaii

**MAR 25 2021**

RE: S.R. No. 63

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

Sir:

Your Committee on Education, to which was referred S.R. No. 63 entitled:

"SENATE RESOLUTION URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO USE CORONAVIRUS AID, RELIEF, AND ECONOMIC SECURITY ACT AND CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE AND RELIEF SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT MONIES TO RETAIN TEACHERS AND PREVENT FURLOUGHS,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to urge the Department of Education to use Coronavirus Aid, Relief, And Economic Security (CARES) Act, Public Law 116-136, and Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSA) Act monies to retain teachers and prevent furloughs.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Hawaii State Teachers Association. Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Department of Education.

Your Committee finds that Hawaii continues to suffer from a shortage of licensed teachers with over one thousand vacancies every year. Prior to the economic crisis brought about by the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, the Department of Education heavily depended on hiring teachers from the continent, many of whom leave the islands after a few years due to the hardship posed by the State's high cost of living. Teachers are also leaving the State at an increasing rate. Of the 1,116



teachers who separated from the Hawaii Department of Education in 2017-2018, four hundred twenty-three individuals left for the continent, a seventy percent increase from five years prior. These challenges have created more vacancies and have left positions to be filled by substitutes or emergency hires, especially in rural and high poverty schools. The Department of Education also struggled with recognizing and compensating teachers, thereby not retaining properly credentialed, effective, and committed teachers.

Your Committee further finds that the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated these existing issues related to teacher retention. Even with federal assistance coming in the form of funds from the CARES and CRRSA Acts, the Department of Education has \$83,000,000 in projected shortfalls for fiscal year 2021, and \$393,000,000 in fiscal year 2022. Your Committee also finds that while the Department of Education will prioritize federal monies for learning, the Department has also proposed using federal funds towards private tutors and summer school to target learning loss mitigation, while firing other teachers and school staff. Thus, federal monies received by the State for the Department of Education should be used to offset budget restrictions that would otherwise result in layoffs, furloughs, or pay reduction.

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 S.R. No. 63 and recommends its adoption.

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

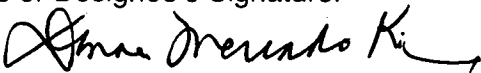


MICHELLE N. KIDANI, Chair



The Senate  
Thirty-First Legislature  
State of Hawai'i

**Record of Votes  
Committee on Education  
EDU**

Bill / Resolution No.:* <b>SR 63</b>	Committee Referral: <b>EDU</b>	Date: <b>03/17/2021</b>		
<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	/			
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4</b>			<b>1</b>
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: 				
<b>Distribution:</b> Original     Yellow     Pink     Goldenrod File with Committee Report     Clerk's Office     Drafting Agency     Committee File Copy				

\*Only one measure per Record of Votes