

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 1369

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 30 2021

RE: S.R. No. 6

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 Human Services, to which was referred S.R. No. 6 entitled:

"SENATE 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,"

beg leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to urge the Department of Education to develop and implement a 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 Committees received testimony in support of this measure from the National Federation of the Blind Hawaii, and six individuals. Your Committees received comments on this measure from the Department of Human Services.

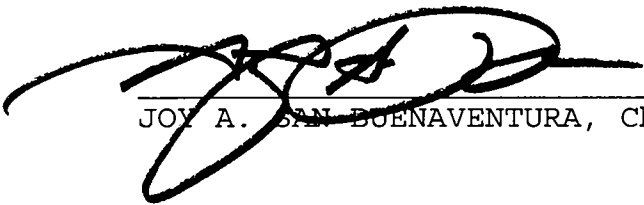
Your Committees find that for decades, Structured Discovery Cane Travel has been empowering blind children and adults across the United States, helping them build confidence and feelings of self-respect as they move safely from place to place. For the teaching of orientation and mobility, the Department of Education has no employees who hold the National Orientation and Mobility Certification credential and until recently would only accept the



Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialist (COMS) certification from the Academy for Certification of Vision Rehabilitation and Education Professionals. The COMS certification gives the Department of Education the personnel resources to provide vision-centered orientation and mobility services but not personnel qualified or capable to teach the structured discovery approach. Of the two recognized training methods, adherents to the structured discovery approach emphasize employing blind instructors, while adherents to the vision-centered approach emphasize instructors who can see, resulting in diminished employment opportunities for qualified blind persons. This measure urges the Department of Education to develop and implement a program to recruit and employ qualified blind professionals to provide more opportunities for blind instructors in the workforce while providing opportunities for self-improvement to vision impaired students.

As affirmed by the records of votes of the members of your Committees on Education and Human Services that are attached to this report, your Committees concur with the intent and purpose of S.R. No. 6 and recommend its adoption.

Respectfully submitted on  
behalf of the members of the  
Committees on Education and  
Human Services,



JOY A. SAN BUENAVENTURA, Chair



MICHELLE N. KIDANI, Chair



The Senate  
Thirty-First Legislature  
State of Hawai'i

**Record of Votes**  
**Committee on Education**  
**EDU**

|   |   |  |                 |          |               |          |        |      |  |                            |                |                 |
|---|---|--|-----------------|----------|---------------|----------|--------|------|--|----------------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Bill / Resolution No.:*<br><div style="font-size: 1.2em; font-family: cursive;">SR6</div>   | Committee Referral:<br><div style="font-size: 1.2em; font-family: cursive;">EDU/HMS</div> | Date:<br><div style="font-size: 1.2em; font-family: cursive;">03/29/21</div> |                 |          |               |          |        |      |  |                            |                |                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure.<br>If so, then the previous decision was to: _____   |   |  |                 |          |               |          |        |      |  |                            |                |                 |
| The Recommendation is:<br><div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: flex-start;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended<br/>2312         </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments<br/>2311         </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Hold<br/>2310         </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit<br/>2313         </div> </div> |   |  |                 |          |               |          |        |      |  |                            |                |                 |
| Members   | Aye   | Aye (WR)   | Nay             | Excused  |               |          |        |      |  |                            |                |                 |
| KIDANI, Michelle N. (C)   | /   |  |                 |          |               |          |        |      |  |                            |                |                 |
| KIM, Donna Mercado (VC)   | /   |  |                 |          |               |          |        |      |  |                            |                |                 |
| DELA CRUZ, Donovan M.   |   |  |                 | /        |               |          |        |      |  |                            |                |                 |
| KANUHA, Dru Mamo  | /   |  |                 |          |               |          |        |      |  |                            |                |                 |
| FEVELLA, Kurt   | /   |  |                 |          |               |          |        |      |  |                            |                |                 |
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| <b>TOTAL</b>  | <b>4</b>  |  |                 | <b>1</b> |               |          |        |      |  |                            |                |                 |
| Recommendation: <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; margin-top: 10px;"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted         <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted         </div>   |   |  |                 |          |               |          |        |      |  |                            |                |                 |
| Chair's or Designee's Signature:<br><div style="font-size: 1.2em; font-family: cursive; margin-top: 10px;"> </div>  |   |  |                 |          |               |          |        |      |  |                            |                |                 |
| <table style="width:100%; font-size: 0.8em;"> <tr> <td style="width:25%;">Distribution:</td> <td style="width:25%;">Original</td> <td style="width:25%;">Yellow</td> <td style="width:25%;">Pink</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>File with Committee Report</td> <td>Clerk's Office</td> <td>Drafting Agency</td> </tr> </table> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; margin-top: 5px;"> <span>Goldenrod</span> <span>Committee File Copy</span> </div>   |   |  |                 |          | Distribution: | Original | Yellow | Pink |  | File with Committee Report | Clerk's Office | Drafting Agency |
| Distribution:   | Original  | Yellow   | Pink            |          |               |          |        |      |  |                            |                |                 |
|   | File with Committee Report  | Clerk's Office   | Drafting Agency |          |               |          |        |      |  |                            |                |                 |

\*Only one measure per Record of Votes

The Senate  
Thirty-First Legislature  
State of Hawai'i

**Record of Votes**  
**Committee on Human Services**  
**HMS**

|   |  |   |     |         |
|---|--|---|-----|---------|
| Bill / Resolution No.:*<br><div style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold;">SR 6</div>   | Committee Referral:<br><div style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold;">EDU / HMS</div> | Date:<br><div style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold;">03/29/2021</div> |     |         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure.<br>If so, then the previous decision was to: _____   |  |   |     |         |
| The Recommendation is:<br><div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: flex-start;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended<br/>2312         </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments<br/>2311         </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Hold<br/>2310         </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit<br/>2313         </div> </div> |  |   |     |         |
| Members   | Aye  | Aye (WR)  | Nay | Excused |
| SAN BUENAVENTURA, Joy A. (C)  | /  |   |     | /       |
| IHARA, Jr., Les (VC)  |  |   |     | /       |
| ACASIO, Laura   | /  |   |     |         |
| MISALUCHA, Bennette E.  |  |   |     | /       |
| FEVELLA, Kurt   | /  |   |     |         |
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| TOTAL   | 3  |   |     | 2       |
| Recommendation: <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; margin-top: 5px;"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted           <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted         </div>  |  |   |     |         |
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