
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.

1 WHEREAS, the National Orientation and Mobility
2 Certification (NOMC) is a credentialing process administered by
3 the National Blindness Professional Certification Board and
4 includes training in teaching Structured Discovery Cane Travel;
5 and
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7 WHEREAS, for decades, Structured Discovery Cane Travel has
8 empowered blind children and adults across the United States,
9 helping them build confidence and feelings of self-respect as
10 they move safely from place to place; and
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12 WHEREAS, the methods and principles of Structured Discovery
13 Cane Travel come from the lived experiences of blind men and
14 women who have shared their experiences, attitudes, and
15 techniques with each other since 1940, leading to techniques,
16 problem solving strategies, experiential learning, confidence
17 building exercises, and the role modeling of non-visual
18 techniques, which demonstrates the effectiveness of the
19 structured discovery approach and helps correct misconceptions
20 about blindness; and
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22 WHEREAS, historically, the Department of Education has not
23 employed NOMC credentialed professionals to teach matters of
24 orientation and mobility to blind students, and until recently,
25 only accepted the Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialist
26 (COMS) credentialing from the Academy for Certification of
27 Vision Rehabilitation and Education Professionals; and
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29 WHEREAS, the COMS certification focuses on vision-centered
30 orientation and mobility services, but does not focus on the
31 structured discovery approach; and



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2 WHEREAS, the structured discovery approach emphasizes the
3 employment of blind instructors, whereas the vision-centered
4 orientation and mobility approach emphasizes the employment of
5 non-blind instructors, resulting in diminished employment
6 opportunities for qualified blind persons as instructors in
7 Department of Education programs; and
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9 WHEREAS, while the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board now
10 accepts the NOMC credentialed professionals to serve in certain
11 positions for which they are qualified to teach visually
12 impaired students, this change has not significantly increased
13 employment of blind instructors in the Department of Education;
14 now, therefore,
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16 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
17 Thirty-first Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
18 of 2022, the Senate concurring, that the Department of Education
19 is urged to develop and implement an affirmative action program,
20 to the extent permitted by law, designed to recruit and employ
21 qualified blind professionals to serve as orientation and
22 mobility instructors and in other positions, as teachers of
23 visually impaired students; and
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25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Superintendent of the
26 Department of Education is urged to prepare a report of findings
27 and recommendations regarding the recruitment and employment of
28 blind persons in instructional positions with the Department of
29 Education for which they are qualified, with the goal of
30 increasing such employment, and include in this report actions
31 taken, progress made, and any proposed legislation, and submit
32 the report to this body at least thirty days prior to the
33 convening of the Regular Session of 2023; and
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35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
36 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Department of
37 Education, Chairperson of the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board,
38 Administrator of the Department of Human Services' Division of
39 Vocational Rehabilitation Services for the Blind Branch
40 (Ho'opono), President of the National Blindness Professional
41 Certification Board, President of the National Federation of the



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1 Blind of Hawaii, and the President of the Hawaii Association of
2 the Blind.
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OFFERED BY:



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