

JAN 26 2022

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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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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

6  
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

11  
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

21  
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

28  
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  
8

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,  
15

16 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first  
17 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2022, the  
18 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of  
19 Education is urged to develop and implement an affirmative  
20 action program, to the extent permitted by law, designed to  
21 recruit and employ qualified blind professionals to serve as  
22 orientation and mobility instructors and in other positions, as  
23 teachers of visually impaired students; and  
24

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  
34

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:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "John A. B. R.", written over a horizontal line.