Honolulu, Hawaii

, 2024

FEB 16

RE: H.B. No. 1651 H.D. 2

Honorable Scott K. Saiki Speaker, House of Representatives Thirty-Second State Legislature Regular Session of 2024 State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, to which was referred H.B. No. 1651, H.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE SAFETY OF EDUCATIONAL WORKERS,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to:

- (1) Provide that educational workers shall not be required to work under conditions or perform tasks when the educational worker is being subjected to harassment;
- (2) Require the Department of Education and public charter schools to take certain actions regarding the reporting and handling of harassment of educational workers; and
- (3) Establish the misdemeanor offense of harassment of an educational worker.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO; Hawaii State AFL-CIO; and six individuals. Your Committee received testimony in opposition to this measure from the Office of the Public Defender and one individual. Your

Committee received comments on this measure from the Department of Education.

Your Committee finds that the many instances of harassment inflicted on educational workers warrants the establishment of procedures to safeguard the health and safety of educational workers. Your Committee also finds that safe schools are fundamental to creating and fostering an optimal learning and working environment. School safety is linked to improved student performance and school outcomes. This measure recognizes the necessity of safeguarding educational workers to enable optimal delivery of educational services to students and families and maintaining a safe learning and working environment.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- Deleting language that would have established the misdemeanor offense of harassment of an educational worker; and
- (2) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 1651, H.D. 1, as amended herein, and recommends that it be referred to your Committee on Finance in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 1651, H.D. 2.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the members of the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

DAVID A. TARNAS, Chair

2024-1623 HB1651 HD2 HSCR HMSO

State of Hawaii House of Representatives The Thirty-second Legislature



Record of Votes of the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

Bill/Resolution No.: HB1651, HD1 Committee Referral: EDN, JHA, FIN 2/14/24				
☐ The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on the measure.				
The recommendation is to: Pass, unamended (as is) Pass, with amendments (HD) Hold Pass short form bill with HD to recommit for future public hearing (recommit)				
JHA Members	Ayes	Ayes (WR)	Nays	Excused
1. TARNAS, David A. (C)	X			
A TAKAWAMA C. (NC)				
2. TAKAYAMA, Gregg (VC)				X
3. EVSLIN, Luke A.	X			
4. GANADEN, Sonny	X			
5 HOLT David				
5. HOLT, Daniel	X			
6. ICHIYAMA, Linda	×			
7. ILAGAN, Greggor	X			
8. KONG, Sam Satoru				
o. Ixoro, bain batoru				
9. MIYAKE, Tyson K.	X			
10. SOUZA, Kanani	X			
TOTAL (10)	9	8	82	I
The recommendation is: Adopted If joint referral, did not support recommendation. committee acronym(s)				
Vice Chair's or designee's signature:				
Distribution: Original (White) – Committee Duplicate (Yellow) – Chief Clerk's Office Duplicate (Pink) – HMSO				