



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
KA 'OIHANA HO'ONA'AUAO
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

Date: 02/28/2024

Time: 02:00 PM

Location: 308 VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Committee: House Finance

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: HB 1655, HD1 RELATING TO EDUCATION.

Purpose of Bill: Requires the DOE to work with the BOE to create a public digital platform by the 2027-2028 school year that shows how schools are adopting high-quality instructional materials for K-12 English language arts.

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) respectfully provides comments on HB 1655, HD1.

HB 1655, HD1, requires the development of a public digital dashboard featuring K-12 English Language Arts (ELA) curricula by 2027-2028.

The Department realizes the importance of public transparency around ELA curricula for caregivers, students and the general public and is committed to providing quality and continuity of instruction through K-12 ELA core curricula in all schools. The requirements in this bill to model this dashboard after efforts in other states could result in the need for additional resources and funding. Instead, the Department wishes to continue the work it has already begun to require schools to list their literacy curriculum in a digital format.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.

Hawai'i State Literacy Coalition
2444 Dole Street, Bachman Annex 6
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96822

February 27, 2024

Committee on Finance
Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
Representative Lisa Kitagawa, Vice-Chair

Aloha e Chair Yamashita, Vice-Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee,

The Hawai'i State Literacy Coalition supports HB1655 HD1, which requires the Department of Education (HIDOE) to work with the Board of Education (BOE) to create a public digital platform by the 2027-2028 school year that shows how schools are adopting high-quality instructional materials for K-6 English language arts.

Currently, just over half of Hawaii's students read proficiently. Scientific research has proven that literacy is a learned skill and that sounding out words is a core practice to create strong readers. To advance the literacy proficiency rate within Hawai'i, HIDOE has committed to ensuring that all public schools implement evidence-based reading strategies. However, it is critical that families know which schools have adopted high-quality instructional materials and that schools are held accountable in their timely transition to the science of reading.

The HB1655 HD1 will address a literacy curriculum transparency. Curriculum transparency matters because it ensures that all public schools in Hawai'i are giving the same high quality instruction to all students. The creation of a public digital platform allows for a more transparent, effective, and equitable Hawai'i educational system. This platform allows families to see what their children are learning and become participants in the literacy journey. Additionally, by showcasing the instructional material for K-6 Language arts, you are promoting collaboration amongst schools and fostering our schools' ability to offer the strongest instructional materials possible.

We appreciate the Legislature's intention to create a public digital platform to support the adoption of high-quality literacy curriculum in our elementary schools and defer to HIDOE regarding the implementation and provisions of the sections of the bill that are pertinent to the department.

The Hawai'i State Literacy Coalition is a collaborative group of education leaders who have made a collective commitment to promoting literacy throughout the state of Hawai'i. Together, we have developed the Hawai'i State Literacy Plan, an aspirational document that focuses on providing research-informed strategies to improve literacy for Hawaii's people.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB1655 HD1.

Kim Guieb-Kang on behalf of the Hawai'i State Literacy Coalition



david.miyashiro@hawaiikidscan.org
hawaiikidscan.org

David Miyashiro
Executive Director

February 28, 2024

Committee on Finance
Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
Rep. Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee,

HawaiiKidsCAN strongly supports HB1655 HD1, which requires the DOE to work with the BOE to create a public digital platform by the 2027-2028 school year that shows how schools are adopting high-quality instructional materials for K-12 English language arts.

Founded in 2017, HawaiiKidsCAN is a local nonprofit organization committed to ensuring that Hawaii has an excellent and equitable education system that reflects the true voices of our communities and, in turn, has a transformational impact on our children and our state. We strongly believe that all students should have access to excellent educational opportunities, regardless of family income levels and circumstances.

Currently, just over half of Hawaii's students read proficiently. Scientific research has proven that literacy is a learned skill and that sounding out words is a core practice to create strong readers. Data has shown that the lack of phonics-based reading strategies is a major factor in low literacy rates.¹ Literacy programs, including balanced literacy and Reading Recovery, do not emphasize the foundational skills like phonics and have been under fire for weak outcomes, with many states shifting to programs grounded in the science of reading.^{2 3} States like Mississippi have seen remarkable progress in increasing their literacy rates since implementing science based literacy programs, moving from the bottom of literacy rankings in the nation to achieving the national average for students in grade four.⁴ Reforms rooted in the science of reading improved

¹ <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/12/05/opinion/mississippi-schools-naep.html>

² [/www.slj.com/story/Love-It-or-Hate-It-the-Science-of-Reading-Curriculum-Gains-Traction-in-Schools](https://www.slj.com/story/Love-It-or-Hate-It-the-Science-of-Reading-Curriculum-Gains-Traction-in-Schools).

³ <https://www.edweek.org/teaching-learning/surprise-finding-suggests-reading-recovery-hurts-students-in-the-long-run/2022>

⁴ <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/12/05/opinion/mississippi-schools-naep.html>

student test scores by the equivalent of a quarter of a year of learning, a new study from California shows.⁵

To advance the literacy proficiency rate within Hawaii, the Hawaii Department of Education has committed to ensuring that all public schools implement science based reading strategies. However, it is critical that families know which schools have adopted high-quality instructional materials and that schools are held accountable in their timely transition to the science of reading.

Since reading is a foundational concern around the country, states like Rhode Island have already launched comprehensive data dashboards to help families easily understand what is being offered by public schools. The curriculum visualization tool used by Rhode Island allows stakeholders to view the curriculum used in their local community and it also rates the quality of each school's curriculum using various factors and data collected from Edreports.org, which takes into account the science of reading.⁶
⁷ According to studies, data dashboards which promote curriculum transparency can help move schools toward higher efficiencies and improve teaching and learning system wide.⁸

Other examples include Colorado, where there is a mandated Literacy Curriculum Transparency dashboard that provides stakeholders a state, district, school, and grade level view of literacy instructional Core, Supplemental, Intervention programming, services and supports, the number of students who are on their READ plans, and the number of students who have achieved reading competency.⁹ Every year, schools in the state must update their dashboards to reflect their current outcomes. In Minnesota, which is ranked highly in literacy in the nation requires each school district shall has a procedure for a parent, guardian, or an adult student, 18 years of age or older, to review the content of the instructional materials provided.¹⁰ Connecticut, which is ranked in the top 5 NAEP reading scores also has curriculum transparency laws.^{11 12}

⁵ <https://www.edweek.org/teaching-learning/science-of-reading-reforms-show-student-gains-in-california-study-finds/2023>.

⁶ <https://tableau.ride.ri.gov/t/Public/views/CurriculumVisualizationsK-122018-2023/CurriculumVisualizationTool>

⁷ https://cdn.edreports.org/media/2021/11/EdReports_FAQ_Reading_Science-v1.pdf

⁸ <https://www.ascd.org/el/articles/what-data-dashboards-can-do>

⁹

<https://www.cde.state.co.us/coloradoliteracy/literacycurriculumtransparency#:~:text=The%20Literacy%20Curriculum%20Transparency%20dashboard%20provides%20stakeholders%20a%20state%2C%20district,who%20have%20achieved%20reading%20competency>

¹⁰ <https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/120B.20>

¹¹ <https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/rankings/education/prek-12/naep-reading-scores>

¹² https://www.lawserver.com/law/state/connecticut/ct-laws/connecticut_statutes_10-4g

States, such as those mentioned, lead the charge in ensuring that students are receiving high quality literacy instruction, which is evident in their national literacy rankings. It is incumbent upon Hawaii to join in creating literacy curriculum transparency and leading the early literacy charge. HB1655 HD1 will address this issue head-on by requiring a similar platform for local families. Curriculum transparency matters because it ensures that all public schools in Hawaii are giving the same high quality instruction to all students. The creation of a public digital platform allows for a more transparent, effective, and equitable Hawaii educational system. This platform allows families to see what their children are learning and become participants in the literacy journey.

Today, there is plentiful evidence on the importance of the science of reading and the urgency of providing high quality curriculum that addresses the literacy crisis. The Right to Read, a documentary film executive produced by Levar Burton, emphasizes the civil rights stakes to the fact that millions of Americans have been disadvantaged and left illiterate due to poor reading instruction. However, there is hope through the science of reading, which aims to bring evidence based reading strategies back into the classroom, solving what may be one of the world's most solvable, yet one of its most prevalent issues, illiteracy¹³. The Sold a Story podcast also highlights the impactful results of implementing these scientifically based reading strategies.

The DOE has already produced many informative digital dashboards, including for data around summer school, computer science, FAFSA completion, and even strategic plans. This work is very much already within the DOE's expertise and kuleana. Using a platform like Tableau, even a graduate student intern could produce a high-quality and user-friendly digital dashboard.

Now is the time for Hawaii to do everything in our power to make sure our kids can read.

Mahalo for your consideration,

David Miyashiro
Founding Executive Director
HawaiiKidsCAN

¹³ <https://sterncenter.org/the-reading-crisis/>

Co-signers



Name	Zip code	Organization
Phaedra Robinson, Ph.D.	96734	RAI Hawai'i
Anne Weber-Yarbrough	96819	
Keala Peters	96821	Chamber of Commerce Hawaii
Piikea Kalakau-Baarde	96813	Teach for America Hawai'i
Gary Namm	33744	Namm Foundation
Dyson Chee	96814	
Alyson Emrick	96744	
Jennifer Leoiki-Drino	96816	Coaching For Ohana
Noel Nichols	96762	
Shannon Davies	96754	
Jacqueline Sills	96743	
Browning McCartin	96816	
Lina Kikuta	96821	
Ann Herkes Keeler	86746	
Sierra Callihan	96701	
Felecia Shin	96763	
Lillian Coltin	96813	
Luke Itomura	96701	

HB-1655-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2024 1:16:33 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/28/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Leoiki-Drino	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

I strongly support bill HB1655. I am a parent of a child with dyslexia, I am a parent advocate in dyslexia and other disabilities, a board member an Public Awareness Committee for the Hawaii International Dyslexia Committee. Over 50% of Hawaii's children are not reading proficiently. We have to implement change and provide reading curriculum that follows the science of reading. The cost of not providing appropriate curriculum is a huge cost to society. An individual who is not a proficient reader has a much higher drop out rate, incarceration rate, homeless and less likely to reach their full potential. The cost this puts on society far surpasses the cost implementing curriculum that all children can learn from. We need to invest in our future, through curriculum, training and educating our teachers and families. Having a digital platform to see the curriculums in place is an important step in this process. Please empower the next generation and do not deny their civil right to read. Please support this bill HB1655