

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

738

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 14 , 2025

RE: H.B. No. 616
H.D. 2

Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura
Speaker, House of Representatives
Thirty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2025
State of Hawaii

Madame:

Your Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, to which was referred H.B. No. 616, 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 provide increased protection for educational workers by requiring the Department of Education and state public charter schools to take certain steps to better address the harassment of educational workers.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the United Public Workers, AFSCME Local 646, AFL-CIO; Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO; and nine individuals. Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Department of the Attorney General and 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

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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:

- (1) Clarifying that educational workers included in bargaining units must negotiate leaves of absence pursuant to certain negotiation processes; 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. 616, 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. 616, H.D. 2.

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



DAVID A. TARNAS, Chair



Record of Votes of the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

Bill/Resolution No.: HB 616 HD1	Committee Referral: EDN, JHA, FIN	Date: 02/11/2025		
<input type="checkbox"/> The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on the measure.				
The recommendation is to: <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended (as is) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments (HD) <input type="checkbox"/> Hold <input type="checkbox"/> 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)	✓			
2. POEPOE, Mahina (VC)	✓			
3. BELATTI, Della Au	✓			
4. COCHRAN, Elle				✓
5. HASHEM, Mark J.				✓
6. KAHALOA, Kirstin	✓			
7. PERRUSO, Amy A.	✓			
8. TAKAYAMA, Gregg	✓			
9. TODD, Chris	✓			
10. GARCIA, Diamond	✓			
11. SHIMIZU, Garner M.	✓			
TOTAL (11)	9	0	0	2
The recommendation is: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted If joint referral, _____ did not support recommendation. <div style="text-align:center; font-size: small;">committee acronym(s)</div>				
Vice Chair's or designee's signature: _____ 				
Distribution: Original (White) – Committee Duplicate (Yellow) – Chief Clerk's Office Duplicate (Pink) – HMSO				