

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 12 2025

RE: S.B. No. 530  
S.D. 1

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi  
President of the Senate  
Thirty-Third State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2025  
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committees on Education and Health and Human Services,  
to which was referred S.B. No. 530 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO BRAILLE LITERACY,"

beg leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to:

- (1) Establish Braille literacy as a policy of the State;
- (2) Require literacy assessments for eligible low vision and blind students to include Braille instruction and the use of Braille;
- (3) Authorize the Department of Education to adopt administrative rules;
- (4) Establish the Braille Literacy Resource Center; and
- (5) Appropriate funds.

Your Committees received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Education, Department of Human Services, Hawaii Disability Rights Center, National Federation of the Blind of Hawaii, and seven individuals.



Your Committees received comments on this measure from the Department of the Attorney General.

Your Committees find that there are approximately twenty-five thousand low vision or blind residents across the State. Presently, the Department of Human Services offers Hoopono Services for the Blind to assist individuals with low vision or blindness who are seeking higher education and competitive, integrated employment. However, integration of Braille into the Department of Education would allow for more students with low vision or blindness to integrate into educational settings while receiving a high-quality education. Therefore, this measure promotes educational equity to ensure all students are globally competitive for the twenty-first century world.

Your Committees have amended this measure by:

- (1) Clarifying that any section 504 plan and individualized education program shall include results of the initial or most recent assessments;
- (2) Clarifying that if consideration of the initial or most recent assessments required support a determination by the section 504 plan team or IEP team that Braille instruction or Braille instructional materials are not appropriate for the student, that determination shall be documented in the section 504 plan or individualized education program;
- (3) Specifying that the date of any new assessment agreed upon by the IEP team shall be included in supporting documentation;
- (4) Changing the appropriation to an unspecified amount; and
- (5) Inserting an effective date of July 1, 2050, to encourage further discussion.

Your Committees note that this measure, as amended, contains an unspecified appropriation amount. Should your Committee on Ways and Means choose to deliberate on this measure, your Committee respectfully requests that it consider inserting an



appropriation amount of \$300,000 for the establishment and operation of the Braille Literacy Resource Center.

As affirmed by the records of votes of the members of your Committees on Education and Health and Human Services that are attached to this report, your Committees are in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 530, as amended herein, and recommend that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 530, S.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Ways and Means.

Respectfully submitted on  
behalf of the members of the  
Committees on Education and  
Health and Human Services,



JOY A. SAN BUENAVENTURA, Chair



MICHELLE N. KIDANI, Chair



The Senate  
Thirty-Third Legislature  
State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes  
Committee on Education  
EDU

Bill / Resolution No.:* <b>SB 530</b>	Committee Referral: <b>EDU/HHS, WAM</b>	Date: <b>2/7/2025</b>		
<div style="display: flex; align-items: flex-start;"><div style="margin-right: 20px;"><input type="checkbox"/> The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____</div></div>				
The Recommendation is: <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; margin-top: 10px;"><div><input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312</div><div><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311</div><div><input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310</div><div><input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313</div></div>				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
KIDANI, Michelle N. (C)	/			
KIM, Donna Mercado (VC)	/			
HASHIMOTO, Troy N.	/			
KANUHA, Dru Mamo	/			
DECORTE, Samantha	/			
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5</b>			
Recommendation: <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; margin-top: 10px;"><div><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted</div><div><input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted</div></div>				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: 				
Distribution: <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; margin-top: 10px;"><div>Original File with Committee Report</div><div>Yellow Clerk's Office</div><div>Pink Drafting Agency</div><div>Goldenrod Committee File Copy</div></div>				

\*Only one measure per Record of Votes

The Senate  
Thirty-Third Legislature  
State of Hawai'i

**Record of Votes**  
**Committee on Health and Human Services**  
**HHS**

Bill / Resolution No.:* <div style="font-size: 1.2em; font-family: cursive;">SB 530</div>	Committee Referral: <div style="font-size: 1.2em; font-family: cursive;">EDU/HHS, WAM</div>	Date: <div style="font-size: 1.2em; font-family: cursive;">2/4/25</div>		
<input type="checkbox"/> The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is: <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: flex-start;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312         </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311         </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310         </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313         </div> </div>				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
SAN BUENAVENTURA, Joy A. (C)	✓			
AQUINO, Henry J.C. (VC)				✓
HASHIMOTO, Troy N.	✓			
KEOHOKALOLE, Jarrett	✓			
FEVELLA, Kurt				✓
<b>TOTAL</b>	3			2
Recommendation: <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; margin-top: 10px;"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted         <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted         </div>				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: <div style="text-align: center; margin-top: 10px;"> </div>				
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: flex-start;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> <b>Distribution:</b>            Original            File with Committee Report         </div> <div style="text-align: center;">           Yellow            Clerk's Office         </div> <div style="text-align: center;">           Pink            Drafting Agency         </div> <div style="text-align: center;">           Goldenrod            Committee File Copy         </div> </div>				

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