

JAN 23 2026

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO EDUCATION.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. (a) The department of education shall
2 establish a one-year student-authored book publication pilot
3 program in which students research, write, and publish original
4 works. The program shall be designed to strengthen literacy,
5 analytical thinking, and communication skills; increase student
6 engagement and confidence; support students' academic
7 progression and preparation for postsecondary education; and
8 foster connections to culture and community.

9 (b) The pilot program shall be conducted at Kalihi public
10 elementary schools and available to students in grade five.

11 (c) Under the student-authored book publication pilot
12 program:

13 (1) Each teacher shall select a topic for their grade five
14 class relating to Hawaiian culture or the local
15 community;

16 (2) Each student shall write and illustrate a book on the
17 selected topic; provided that the dimensions and



1 length of the book shall be determined by the
2 department of education according to available funds;
3 and

4 (3) The department of education shall facilitate the
5 collection, printing, binding, and return of the
6 student-authored books.

7 (d) The department of education shall contract with a
8 third party in accordance with chapter 103D, Hawaii Revised
9 Statutes, to implement the pilot program, including to fulfill
10 its duties pursuant to subsection (c)(3).

11 (e) The department of education shall submit a report on
12 the student-authored book publication pilot program to the
13 legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
14 the regular session of 2028. The report shall include:

15 (1) Assessments of the program's implementation, student
16 outcomes, and the feasibility of continuing or
17 expanding the program; and
18 (2) Additional findings, recommendations, and any proposed
19 legislation.

20 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
21 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so



S.B. NO. 2817

1 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2026-2027 for
2 the establishment of the student-authored book publication pilot
3 program.

4 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
5 education for the purposes of this Act.

6 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2026.

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INTRODUCED BY: Anna Mercado Kn



S.B. NO. 2877

Report Title:

DOE; Student-Authored Book Publication Pilot Program; Kalihi; Grade Five; Report; Appropriation

Description:

Requires the Department of Education to establish a one-year Student-Authored Book Publication Pilot Program for fifth graders at Kalihi public elementary schools. Requires a report to the legislature. Appropriates funds.

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.

