

JAN 23 2026

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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

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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



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

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

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

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

(1) Assessments of the program's implementation, student  
outcomes, and the feasibility of continuing or  
expanding the program; and

(2) Additional findings, recommendations, and any proposed  
legislation.

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



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: *Genora Mercado K.*



# 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.*

