STAND. COM. REP. NO. 3266

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 30 2026

RE: H.B. No. 2297
H.D. 1
S.D. 1

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Thirty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2026
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Education, to which was referred H.B. No. 2297, H.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to update the State's statutory framework for adult and community education programs to ensure alignment with federal funding requirements and current best practices in those programs.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Education, University of Hawai'i System, and McKinley Community School for Adults.

Your Committee finds that existing laws governing the State's adult and community education programs require updates to maintain eligibility for federal grant funding and to better support adult learners to gain the skills necessary for a productive home and work life. Modernizing the programs to emphasize workforce readiness and workforce development aligns with the Department of Education's priority to prepare students for the workforce and will provide under-skilled individuals with educational opportunities to develop the competencies necessary for gainful employment. This measure aligns the scope of adult and community education programs with federal requirements and national best



practices, thereby improving the programs' educational outcomes and long-term viability.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

(1) Inserting an effective date of July 31, 2055, to encourage further discussion; and

(2) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Education that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 2297, H.D. 1, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 2297, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Ways and Means.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the members of the Committee on Education,

DONNA MERCADO KIM, Chair

The Senate
Thirty-Third Legislature
State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Education
EDU

Bill / Resolution No.:*	Committee Referral:	Date:
HB 2297 HD 1	EDU, WAM	03/20/2026

☐ The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure.

If so, then the previous decision was to: _____

The Recommendation is:

☐ Pass, unamended 2312 ☑ Pass, with amendments 2311 ☐ Hold 2310 ☐ Recommit 2313

Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
KIM, Donna Mercado (C)	✓			
KIDANI, Michelle N. (VC)				✓
FUKUNAGA, Carol				✓
HASHIMOTO, Troy N.	✓			
DECORTE, Samantha	✓			
TOTAL	3	0	0	2

Recommendation: ☑ Adopted ☐ Not Adopted

Chair's or Designee's Signature: [signature]

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*Only one measure per Record of Votes

Revised: 01/02/26