

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAY 01 2026

RE: S.B. No. 2125
S.D. 1
H.D. 2
C.D. 1

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

Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura
Speaker, House of Representatives
Thirty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2026
State of Hawaii

Sir and Madam:

Your Committee on Conference on the disagreeing vote of the Senate to the amendments proposed by the House of Representatives in S.B. No. 2125, S.D. 1, H.D. 2, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO TEACHER LICENSING,"

having met, and after full and free discussion, has agreed to recommend and does recommend to the respective Houses the final passage of this bill in an amended form.

The purpose of this measure is to:

- (1) Allow the Department of Education to hire unlicensed individuals as teachers on an emergency basis for five, rather than three, years;
- (2) Require that unlicensed teachers hired on an emergency basis make continuous and verifiable progress toward satisfying licensing requirements; and
- (3) Sunset on June 30, 2031.



Your Committee on Conference finds that, while emergency hires are a foundational component of the State's educator workforce and central to mitigating the ongoing teacher shortage, existing law compels many to exit the classroom annually due to an inflexible three-year deadline to achieve licensure. Currently, only one-in-three emergency hire teachers obtains a license within that timeline due to various challenges in the licensing process. By extending the licensing timeline to five years, but requiring emergency hires to demonstrate progress toward licensure annually, this measure supports increased educator retention while protecting instructional quality.

Your Committee on Conference has amended this measure by:

- (1) Adding language that authorizes charter schools to employ unlicensed individuals as teachers on an emergency basis for five, rather than three, years, pursuant to certain conditions;
- (2) Specifying that any individual employed by the Department of Education or a charter school on an emergency basis before June 30, 2031, shall be permitted to continue such employment for up to five years from the individual's initial date of hire, with the condition that the individual shall continue to demonstrate active pursuit of licensing each year of employment; and
- (3) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

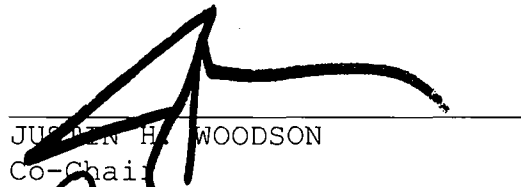
As affirmed by the record of votes of the managers of your Committee on Conference that is attached to this report, your Committee on Conference is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 2125, S.D. 1, H.D. 2, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Final Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 2125, S.D. 1, H.D. 2, C.D. 1.



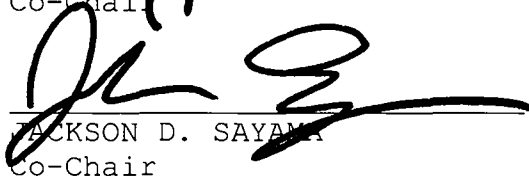
Respectfully submitted on behalf
of the managers:

ON THE PART OF THE HOUSE

ON THE PART OF THE SENATE


JUSTIN H. WOODSON
Co-Chair


DONNA MERCADO KIM
Chair


JACKSON D. SAYAMA
Co-Chair


MIKE LEE
Co-Chair



Hawai'i State Legislature
Record of Votes of a
Conference Committee

CR 208-26

Bill / Concurrent Resolution No.: SB 2125, SD 1, HD 2	Date/Time: <i>5/1/26, 4:11 pm</i>
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- The recommendation of the House and Senate managers is to pass with amendments (CD).
- The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> The recommendation of the Senate Manager(s) is to AGREE to the House amendments made to the Senate Measure | <input type="checkbox"/> The recommendation of the House Manager(s) is to AGREE to the Senate amendments made to the House Measure. |
|---|---|

Senate Managers	A	WR	N	E	House Managers	A	WR	N	E
KIM, Donna Mercado, Chr.	/				WOODSON, Justin H., Co-Chr.	/			
HASHIMOTO, Troy N.	/				SAYAMA, Jackson D., Co-Chr.				/
DECORTE, Samantha	/			/	LEE, Mike, Co-Chr.	/			
					LA CHICA, Trish	/			
					OLDS, Ikaika	/			
					MURAOKA, Christopher L.	/			
TOTAL	2	0	0	1	TOTAL	5	0	0	1

A = Aye WR = Aye with Reservations N = Nay E = Excused

Senate Recommendation is: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted	House Recommendation is: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted
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Senate Lead Chair's or Designee's Signature: 	House Lead Chair's or Designee's Signature:
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