ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:
H.B. NO. 1887, RELATING TO ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE LITERACY EDUCATION.

BEFORE THE:
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

DATE: Tuesday, February 3, 2026   **TIME:** 2:00 p.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 309

TESTIFIER(S):   Anne E. Lopez, Attorney General, or
Anne T. Horiuchi, Deputy Attorney General

Chair Woodson and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Attorney General (Department) provides the following comments.

The bill: (1) requires the Department of Education to develop and implement a statewide Artificial Intelligence Literacy Curricula Plan for students in eleventh and twelfth grades, beginning with the 2027-2028 school year as a condition for graduation; (2) establishes the Advisory Council for Artificial Intelligence Education; (3) establishes a three-year Artificial Intelligence Education Grant Pilot Program within the Department of Education; (4) requires reports to the Legislature; and (5) appropriates funds.

We have the following recommendations to improve the bill.

Section 1 of the bill adds to subpart B of part II of chapter 302A, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), a new section 302A-A that contains in subsection (d) on page 3, lines 9-10, the requirement that a school develop an artificial intelligence policy "in consultation with its students' parents and the local community," but the subsection does not define what constitutes "consultation" sufficient to satisfy this requirement. Additional guidance may be necessary to support consistent implementation.

We recommend that section 302A-B in section 2 of the bill be amended to expressly place the Advisory Council for Artificial Intelligence Education within the Department of Education to satisfy section 6 of article V of the Hawaii Constitution. Further, the new section 302A-B does expressly require the appointment of a yet

unspecified number of members of the new council, but subsection (a) on page 4, line 4, of the bill refers to "representatives of the local artificial intelligence industry" without defining who qualifies as such representatives. We recommend that these provisions be given more clarity.

On page 4, lines 5-7, section 302A-B(a) also states that "[a]ppointments shall be for a term of two years with reappointments optional but not to exceed a total of six years on the advisory council," which may benefit from clarification. For example, the provision could be revised to read: "Advisory council members shall be appointed for an initial term of two years. Members may be reappointed for additional terms, but the combined total of initial and reappointed terms shall not exceed six years."

In section 3 of the bill on page 8, lines 8-9, "public school" is defined as a "department of education school governed by chapter 302A, Hawaii Revised Statutes." However, section 302A-101, HRS, defines "public school" to include both Department of Education schools and charter schools governed by chapter 302D, HRS. Section 302A-101, HRS, separately defines "department school" as a public school that is not a charter school. If the intent of the bill is to limit the schools referenced in section 3 to Department of Education schools, the Department recommends replacing references to "public school" with "department school" and defining "department school" in section 3 by reference to section 302A-101, HRS.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this bill.

STATE OF HAWAI`I
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
KA 'OIHANA HO'ONA'AUAO
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAI`I 96804

Date: 02/03/2026
Time: 02:00 PM
Location: 309 VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE
Committee: EDN

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: HB1887, RELATING TO ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE LITERACY EDUCATION.

Purpose of Bill: Requires the Department of Education to develop and implement a statewide Artificial Intelligence Literacy Curricula Plan for students in eleventh and twelfth grades, beginning with the 2027-2028 school year as a condition for graduation. Establishes the Advisory Council for Artificial Intelligence Education. Establishes a three-year Artificial Intelligence Education Grant Pilot Program within the Department of Education. Requires reports to the Legislature. Appropriates funds.

Department's Position: Comments

The Hawai'i State Department of Education (Department) appreciates the intent of HB 1887 but cannot support this bill in its current form. However, the Department looks forward to working with the Legislature to find a way forward.

The Department appreciates the legislature's recognition of the growing importance of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and the need to prepare students for a world increasingly powered by computing.

Section 1
The Department respectfully expresses concerns with the mandate to implement a separate statewide curriculum plan specifically for AI and to make AI literacy a condition for graduation.

The Department offers the following comments for coherence regarding the Department's current standards and strategic direction:

A. AI is already integrated into Computer Science Standards. The Department respectfully recommends that a new, separate curriculum for AI is unnecessary because AI concepts are already comprehensively covered within our existing Computer Science (CS) standards. The Revised Computer Science Teacher Association (CSTA) PK–12 Standards, which guide our instruction, integrate AI throughout the core concepts rather than treating it as an isolated subject.

B. Graduation requirements are determined by the Hawaiʻi State Board of Education. The Department has initiated the review of the current graduation requirements, and Bill HB 1887 may be noted with the other input received from stakeholders. When the Department recommends any changes to graduation requirements, it is important to consider that there is a set number of graduation credit requirements (currently 24 credits), thus, any additions need to be considered in the scope of the overall benefit of the students. Furthermore, the Board is considering adoption of a revised *Vision of a Hawaiʻi Public School Graduate* which is expected soon, and when updating graduation requirements, the vision should guide the work and decisions.

Section 2
The Department defers to the Hawaiʻi State Board of Education regarding Section 2. However, the Department would like to note that since the onset of generative AI, the Department has convened a Department Cross Office AI Team to work on various aspects of AI for staff and students. This team has developed staff and student guidance, and with student safety at the forefront, has been conducting training for both staff and teachers. The Department is committed to continuing the work with AI both internally, and with external partners.

Sections 3 - 5
The Department would benefit from Section 3 and Section 4 of this measure, which establish and fund a three-year Artificial Intelligence Education Grant Pilot Program, given the fiscal constraints facing the state, the Department respectfully asks that funding instead be appropriated to priorities identified in its Board approved budget.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB 1887.

Written Testimony of John Coleman
Legislative Counsel
Foundation for Individual Rights and Expression (FIRE)
Committee on Education
Hawai'i House of Representatives
Re: HB 1887
January 3, 2026

Dear Chair Woodson and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 1887. My name is John Coleman, and I serve as legislative counsel for artificial intelligence and free expression at the Foundation for Individual Rights and Expression, a nonpartisan nonprofit that defends free expression for all Americans.

We support HB 1887 because it advances artificial intelligence literacy in a measured, education-focused way. Helping students understand what this technology can and cannot do, and when human judgment, context, and responsibility matter, is an important and constructive goal, especially as AI becomes increasingly commonplace in our everyday communications.

AI is an expressive tool, and the people who develop and use it retain their constitutional rights. The First Amendment limits the government's authority to regulate how people communicate ideas, and its principles have long adapted to new technologies, from radio and television to the internet. This means that the people who use it engage in expression, which includes the sharing and seeking information.
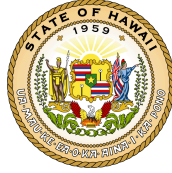
Just as we teach students to read critically, write, and evaluate sources of information, teaching students how to understand this new technology and its limits is a step in the right direction.

For those reasons, FIRE supports HB 1887 and urges its passage. Thank you.

Regards,

John Coleman
Legislative Counsel
Foundation for Individuals Rights and Expression (FIRE)

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

ROY M. TAKUMI
CHAIRPERSON

STATE OF HAWAI'I
BOARD OF EDUCATION
PAPA HO'ONA'AUAO
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAI'I 96804

House Committee on Education
Tuesday, February 3, 2026
2:00 p.m.
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 309

Measure: **House Bill 1887, Relating to Artificial Intelligence Literacy Education**
Purpose of Measure:
Requires the Department of Education to develop and implement a statewide Artificial Intelligence Literacy Curricula Plan for students in eleventh and twelfth grades, beginning with the 2027-2028 school year as a condition for graduation. Establishes the Advisory Council for Artificial Intelligence Education. Establishes a three-year Artificial Intelligence Education Grant Pilot Program within the Department of Education. Requires reports to the Legislature. Appropriates funds.

Aloha Chair Woodson, Vice Chair La Chica, and Members of the Committee:

The Board of Education (Board) recognizes the importance of ensuring our students are knowledgeable about artificial intelligence, and has been working with the Department to understand ongoing work in this area as well as studying best practices and approaches. The Board respectfully offers comments on House Bill 1887.

The Board's responsibility is to formulate statewide educational policy, pursuant to Article X, Section 3, of the Hawaii Constitution, and section 26-12, Hawaii Revised Statutes. The Board respectfully submits that the establishment and operation of programs, including the provision of professional development, does not fall within its purview, and that such a role would be best handled by the Department of Education (Department), which is statutorily tasked with the administration of programs of education and public instruction throughout the state.

The Board defers to the Department regarding implementation and funding in this regard.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify on behalf of the Board.

HOUSE BILL 1887, RELATING TO EDUCATION

FEBRUARY 3, 2026 · EDN HEARING

POSITION: Support.

RATIONALE: The Democratic Party of Hawaiʻi Education Caucus **supports** HB 1887, relating to artififical intelligence literacy education, which establishes a statewide artificial intelligence literacy curriculum for public high school students and provides professional development and grant support for educators. As artificial intelligence tools rapidly reshape how students learn, how teachers teach, and how information is produced and consumed, this measure represents a timely investment in Hawaiʻi's public education system.

Artificial intelligence is already deeply embedded in educational settings nationwide. During the 2024–2025 school year, surveys found that approximately 85 percent of teachers and 86 percent of students reported using AI tools for educational purposes, including tutoring support, feedback generation, and lesson preparation. Despite this widespread adoption, most students receive little to no formal instruction on how these tools function, their limitations, or their ethical implications. Without intentional literacy education, students are left to navigate AI independently, increasing the risk of personal misuse and academic harm.

When implemented thoughtfully, AI can offer meaningful educational benefits. Research indicates that AI-supported learning tools can personalize instruction, provide immediate feedback, and support multilingual learners and students with diverse learning needs. Educators also report that

AI can reduce administrative burdens, allowing teachers to devote more time to instruction and student engagement. Emerging academic research further suggests that AI can serve as a learning scaffold when paired with clear pedagogical guidance and student literacy frameworks.

At the same time, the risks of unregulated or poorly understood AI use in classrooms are well documented. The Brookings Institution and other education researchers warn that excessive reliance on generative AI may contribute to "cognitive off-loading," where students substitute AI-generated outputs for independent reasoning, writing, and analysis, potentially undermining long-term skill development. Studies also highlight concerns about academic integrity, student data privacy, algorithmic bias, and unequal access to high-quality AI tools, which may exacerbate existing educational inequities if left unaddressed.

These concerns are especially relevant in Hawaiʻi, where cultural context, linguistic diversity, and local values must be reflected in educational policy. Research emphasizes that AI systems developed without cultural grounding can fail to serve Indigenous and local communities effectively, particularly in language preservation and culturally responsive instruction. This bill recognizes this reality by emphasizing culturally relevant instruction and educator training, ensuring that AI literacy education aligns with Hawaiʻi's unique social and cultural landscape.

Preparing students for the future workforce also requires proactive engagement with AI literacy. University of Hawaiʻi Economic Research Organization reports suggest that AI is more likely to augment, rather than replace, skilled labor in the islands, increasing demand for workers who possess critical thinking and technological fluency. Providing students with foundational AI literacy in high school strengthens college and career readiness while empowering students to responsibly use emerging technologies.

HB 1887 offers a balanced approach that recognizes both the promise and the perils of artificial intelligence in education. By investing in structured AI literacy, this measure helps ensure that AI serves as a tool for learning, rather than a threat to educational integrity.

Contact: educationcaucusdph@gmail.com · 808-679-7454

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lorna Holmes	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As an educator who has worked both in elementary school and in college, I can testify that this AI education plan is completely unnecessary, and a waste of money for the sake of jumping on the AI bandwagon. Students need to learn to read, from actual books; let's concentrate on increasing the real literacy rate. AI is a powerful tool which should be used by experts who understand it, not handed out like a toy to children and the general public. At any rate, in the form publicly offered, AI hardly requires any training to use. It requires more effort **not** to use it, which is the better idea.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Dr. Lorna Holmes, Mo'ili'ili 96826

HB-1887
Submitted on: 1/30/2026 5:52:53 PM
Testimony for EDN on 2/3/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Johnnie-Mae L. Perry	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I, Johnnie-Mae L. Perry Support

1887 HB RELATING TO ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE LITERACY EDUCATION.	EDN	309 VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE	Feb 3, 2026 2:00 PM

HB-1887
Submitted on: 1/30/2026 8:33:29 PM
Testimony for EDN on 2/3/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jacob Wiencek	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committeemembers,

We have got to get artificial intelligence right. This technology is rapidly reshaping the world we live. The future's of all of us. Educating about it is a *top* priority. I stronly urge the committee to SUPPORT this bill!