



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
KA 'OIHANA HO'ONA'AUAO
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 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: HB2012, RELATING TO COMMUNITY LITERACY LABS.

Purpose of Bill: Establishes and appropriates funds for the Department of Education to establish and implement a two-year Community Literacy Labs Pilot Program.

Department's Position:

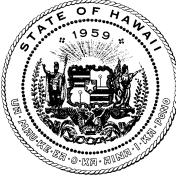
The Hawai'i State Department of Education (Department) recognizes that the ideas proposed in HB 2012, which requests that the Department establish a two-year community literacy labs pilot program in at least five communities with Title I funding, prioritizing areas with high percentages of students reading below grade level, high poverty, limited access to resources, high populations of English language learners and housing instability are good ideas. However, given the fiscal constraints facing the state the Department cannot support the bill in its current form. The Department wishes to continue working with the Legislature to explore potential paths forward.

The Department supports the spirit of this bill and concurs that after school tutoring programs may benefit students.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB 2012.

JOSH B. GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



STACEY A. ALDRICH
STATE LIBRARIAN
Ke Po'o Hale Waihona Puke Moku'āina

STATE OF HAWAI'I
HAWAII STATE PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM
'OIHANA HALE WAIHONA PUKE AUPUNI O KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAI'I
OFFICE OF THE STATE LIBRARIAN
44 MERCHANT STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAI'I 96813
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House Committee on Education
February 3, 2026, 2:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Room 309

HB 2012 – Relating to Community Literacy Labs

To: Rep. Justin H. Woodson, Chair
Rep. Trish La Chica, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Education

The Hawai'i State Public Library System (HSPLS) supports the intent of HB 2012 which would establish and appropriate funds for the Department of Education to establish and implement a two-year Community Literacy Labs Pilot Program.

The purpose of this bill is to improve early literacy, reading proficiency, and lifelong educational outcomes by offering student support outside of regular school hours in collaboration with community partners.

Kofi Annan wrote "Literacy is a bridge from misery to hope. It is a tool for daily life in modern society. It is a bulwark against poverty, and a building block of development..." Literacy is crucial to the success of our students and the future of Hawai'i. Our public libraries are dedicated to strengthening literacy and currently provide weekly story times for early readers and programs like Read to a Dog for reluctant readers.

HSPLS is supportive of the intent of this measure to extend literacy opportunities into communities where there is great need. If this bill were to be adopted and funded, HSPLS is willing to partner with the Department of Education to bring literacy programs to more community members.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB 2012 and for your continued support of literacy and the Hawai'i State Public Library System.

HB-2012

Submitted on: 1/30/2026 5:51:52 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

2012 HB RELATING TO COMMUNITY LITERACY LABS.	EDN	309 VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE	Feb 3, 2026 2:00 PM
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HB-2012

Submitted on: 1/30/2026 9:04:56 PM
Testimony for EDN on 2/3/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

As an educator who has worked both in elementary school and in college, I can testify that this is an excellent and much-needed idea. I strongly urge you to fund and implement the Community Literacy program. I would not omit adult literacy from consideration.

Mahalo for your action,

Dr. Lorna Holmes, Mo'ili'ili 96826