
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM, IN COLLABORATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION, TO REQUIRE COMPLETION OF COMPREHENSIVE COURSEWORK IN READING, LANGUAGE, AND LITERACY AS A CONDITION FOR GRADUATION FROM ANY STATE-APPROVED EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAM LEADING TO TEACHER LICENSURE.

1 WHEREAS, literacy is a foundational skill essential to
2 academic success, workforce readiness, and civic participation;
3 and

4
5 WHEREAS, reading proficiency by the end of third grade is a
6 critical benchmark that strongly predicts future educational
7 outcomes; and

8
9 WHEREAS, recognizing its importance, the Department of
10 Education has identified literacy achievement as a priority area
11 for student success; and

12
13 WHEREAS, preservice teacher preparation in learning to
14 teach students how to read is the beginning of a teacher's
15 lifelong professional growth; and

16
17 WHEREAS, ensuring that all teacher candidates are equipped
18 with research- and evidence-based reading instruction practices
19 is essential to improving student literacy outcomes across the
20 State; and

21
22 WHEREAS, evidence-based research on how students learn to
23 read and how reading should be effectively taught encompasses
24 decades of interdisciplinary study in cognitive science,
25 neuroscience, and education; and
26



1 WHEREAS, the complex process of achieving literacy
2 emphasizes explicit, systematic instruction in phonemic
3 awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension; and
4

5 WHEREAS, despite its efficacy, many teacher preparation
6 programs nationwide have not consistently required comprehensive
7 literacy coursework, resulting in gaps in instructional
8 effectiveness; and
9

10 WHEREAS, aligning teacher preparation requirements with
11 research-based instructional methods will strengthen educator
12 readiness and student achievement statewide; now, therefore,
13

14 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third
15 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2026, the
16 House of Representatives concurring, that the University of
17 Hawaii System, in collaboration with the Department of Education
18 and other institutions of higher education, is requested to
19 require all candidates enrolled in state-approved educator
20 preparation programs leading to teacher licensure to
21 successfully complete comprehensive coursework in reading,
22 language, and literacy; and
23

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the reading, language, and
25 literacy coursework requirement is requested to include
26 instruction in:
27

- 28 (1) Research- and evidence-based reading development and
29 instruction;
- 30
- 31 (2) Structured literacy practices, including phonological
32 and phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary,
33 and comprehension;
- 34
- 35 (3) Assessment and identification of reading difficulties,
36 including characteristics of dyslexia; and
37
- 38 (4) Intervention strategies to support struggling readers;
39 and
40

41 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that completion of the comprehensive
42 reading, language, and literacy coursework is requested to be a



1 mandatory condition for graduation from any state-approved
2 teacher education program and for recommendation for teacher
3 licensure in the State; and
4

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the relevant state-approved
6 teacher education programs are requested to implement this
7 requirement no later than the 2028-2029 school year; and
8

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
10 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted the Chairperson of the
11 Board of Education, Superintendent of Education, President of
12 the University of Hawaii System, Chairperson of the University
13 of Hawaii Board of Regents, Dean of the College of Education at
14 the University of Hawaii at Manoa, and chief executive officer
15 of each state-approved teacher education program.

