

---

---

# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM, IN COLLABORATION WITH THE HAWAII TEACHER STANDARDS BOARD AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION, TO REQUIRE COMPLETION OF COMPREHENSIVE COURSEWORK IN THE SCIENCE OF READING 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, because not all new teachers have received  
14 sufficient training in literacy instruction, the Department of  
15 Education has indicated that it will conduct statewide  
16 professional development in the science of reading, which will  
17 require time, funding, and the hiring of consultants; and  
18

19 WHEREAS, ensuring that all teacher candidates are equipped  
20 with evidence-based reading instruction practices is essential  
21 to improving student literacy outcomes across the State; and  
22

23 WHEREAS, evidence-based research on how students learn to  
24 read and how reading should be effectively taught, commonly  
25 referred to as the "science of reading", encompasses decades of  
26 interdisciplinary study in cognitive science, neuroscience, and  
27 education; and  
28



1 WHEREAS, the science of reading emphasizes explicit,  
2 systematic instruction in phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency,  
3 vocabulary, and comprehension; and  
4

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

10 WHEREAS, aligning teacher preparation requirements with  
11 scientifically-supported instructional methods will strengthen  
12 educator readiness and student achievement statewide; now,  
13 therefore,  
14

15 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third  
16 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2026, the  
17 House of Representatives concurring, that the University of  
18 Hawaii System, in collaboration with the Hawaii Teacher  
19 Standards Board and other institutions of higher education, is  
20 requested to require all candidates enrolled in state-approved  
21 educator preparation programs leading to teacher licensure to  
22 successfully complete at least one comprehensive course in the  
23 science of reading; and  
24

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the science of reading course  
26 requirement is requested to include instruction in:  
27

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

40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that completion of the comprehensive  
41 science of reading course is requested to be a mandatory  
42 condition for graduation from any state-approved teacher



1 education program and for recommendation for teacher licensure  
2 in the State; and

3

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

7

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaii Teacher Standards  
9 Board is requested to align licensure standards and program  
10 approval criteria with the comprehensive science of reading  
11 course requirement; and

12

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
14 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the  
15 Board of Education, Superintendent of Education, Executive  
16 Director of the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board, President of the  
17 Hawaii State Teachers Association, and chief executive officer  
18 of each state-approved teacher education program.

