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# SENATE 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  
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5           WHEREAS, reading proficiency by the end of third grade is a  
6 critical benchmark that strongly predicts future educational  
7 outcomes; and  
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9           WHEREAS, recognizing its importance, the Department of  
10 Education has identified literacy achievement as a priority area  
11 for student success; and  
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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  
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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  
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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  
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27           WHEREAS, the complex process of achieving literacy  
28 emphasizes explicit, systematic instruction in phonemic  
29 awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension; and  
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1 WHEREAS, despite its efficacy, many teacher preparation  
2 programs nationwide have not consistently required comprehensive  
3 literacy coursework, resulting in gaps in instructional  
4 effectiveness; and

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6 WHEREAS, aligning teacher preparation requirements with  
7 research-based instructional methods will strengthen educator  
8 readiness and student achievement statewide; now, therefore,

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

18  
19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the reading, language, and  
20 literacy coursework requirement is requested to include  
21 instruction in:

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- 23 (1) Research- and evidence-based reading development and  
24 instruction;
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  - 26 (2) Structured literacy practices, including phonological  
27 and phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary,  
28 and comprehension;
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  - 30 (3) Assessment and identification of reading difficulties,  
31 including characteristics of dyslexia; and
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  - 33 (4) Intervention strategies to support struggling readers;  
34 and
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36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that completion of the comprehensive  
37 reading, language, and literacy coursework is requested to be a  
38 mandatory condition for graduation from any state-approved  
39 teacher education program and for recommendation for teacher  
40 licensure in the State; and



1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the relevant state-approved  
2 teacher education programs are requested to implement this  
3 requirement no later than the 2028-2029 school year; and  
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5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
6 Resolution be transmitted the Chairperson of the Board of  
7 Education, Superintendent of Education, President of the  
8 University of Hawaii System, Chairperson of the University of  
9 Hawaii Board of Regents, Dean of the College of Education at the  
10 University of Hawaii at Manoa, and chief executive officer of  
11 each state-approved teacher education program.

