
SENATE 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
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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, 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
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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
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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
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1 WHEREAS, the science of reading emphasizes explicit,
2 systematic instruction in phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency,
3 vocabulary, and comprehension; and
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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
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10 WHEREAS, aligning teacher preparation requirements with
11 scientifically-supported instructional methods will strengthen
12 educator readiness and student achievement statewide; now,
13 therefore,
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15 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third
16 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2026,
17 that the University of Hawaii System, in collaboration with the
18 Hawaii Teacher Standards Board and other institutions of higher
19 education, is requested to require all candidates enrolled in
20 state-approved educator preparation programs leading to teacher
21 licensure to successfully complete at least one comprehensive
22 course in the science of reading; and
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24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the science of reading course
25 requirement is requested to include instruction in:
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- 27 (1) Evidence-based reading development and instruction;
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29 (2) Structured literacy practices, including phonological
30 and phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary,
31 and comprehension;
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33 (3) Assessment and identification of reading difficulties,
34 including characteristics of dyslexia; and
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36 (4) Intervention strategies to support struggling readers;
37 and
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39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that completion of the comprehensive
40 science of reading course is requested to be a mandatory
41 condition for graduation from any state-approved teacher



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

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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

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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

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

