

STAND. COM. REP. NO. **3636**

Honolulu, Hawaii

APR 09 2026

RE: H.B. No. 1840
H.D. 2
S.D. 1

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Thirty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2026
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Ways and Means, to which was referred H.B. No. 1840, H.D. 2, S.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to help reduce Hawaii's teacher shortage by improving teacher retention and recruitment.

Specifically, this measure:

- (1) Requires the Hawaii State Teachers Board to develop an alternative pathway for a visiting international educator permit that authorizes a visiting international educator to teach all subjects and grade levels for which the educator is qualified and is employed by the Department of Education;
- (2) Extends from three years to five years the duration during which the Department of Education or a charter school may employ an unlicensed teacher on an emergency basis;
- (3) Requires the Hawaii State Teachers Board, in the case of a declaration of a state of emergency, to authorize an



extension of the five-year period for an emergency hire to complete licensing requirements; and

- (4) Requires the Department of Education to provide support to assist emergency hires in meeting the requirements of teacher licensure.

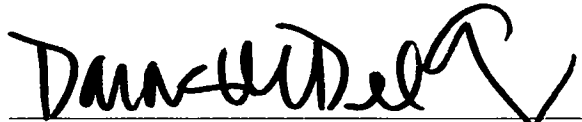
Your Committee received written comments in support of this measure from the Department of Education, Executive Office on Early Learning, Hawaii State Teachers Association, Roots Reborn Maui, Teacher Lounge, The Legal Clinic, and numerous individuals.

Your Committee received written comments in opposition to this measure from the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board.

Your Committee finds that teachers who are actively teaching in classrooms while working toward full licensure fulfill a critical role in maintaining instructional continuity, particularly in rural, neighbor island, and high-need schools where staffing challenges are most acute. Your Committee believes that providing these individuals with additional time to satisfy full licensure requirements will not only help schools address immediate staffing needs but also improve long-term outcomes for the school's students.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Ways and Means that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 1840, H.D. 2, S.D. 1, and recommends that it pass Third Reading.

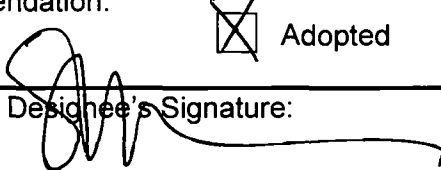
Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Ways and Means,


DONOVAN M. DELA CRUZ, Chair



The Senate
Thirty-Third Legislature
State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Ways and Means
WAM

Bill / Resolution No.:*	Committee Referral:	Date:		
HB 1840, HD2, SD1	EDU, WAM	4/6/2026		
<input type="checkbox"/> The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is:				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312	<input type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311	<input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310		
<input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
DELA CRUZ, Donovan M. (C)	X			
MORIWAKI, Sharon Y. (VC)	X			
DECOITE, Lynn	X			
ELEFANTE, Brandon J.C.	X			
HASHIMOTO, Troy N.	X			
INOUYE, Lorraine R.	X			
KANUHA, Dru Mamo	X			
KIDANI, Michelle N.	X			
KIM, Donna Mercado	X			
LEE, Chris				X
RICHARDS, III, Herbert M. "Tim"	X			
WAKAI, Glenn	X			
FEVELLA, Kurt	X			
TOTAL	12	0	0	1
Recommendation:				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature:				
				
Distribution:				
Original	Yellow	Pink		
File with Committee Report	Committee	Drafting Agency		

*Only one measure per Record of Votes