

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 1789-26

Honolulu, Hawaii  
APR 02 , 2026

RE: H.C.R. No. 161

Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura  
Speaker, House of Representatives  
Thirty-Third State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2026  
State of Hawaii

Madame:

Your Committee on Education, to which was referred H.C.R. No. 161 entitled:

"HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO ESTABLISH A SWIMMER CLASSIFICATION FRAMEWORK FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to request the Department of Education to establish a swimmer classification framework for public schools.

Your Committee received testimony in support of the intent of this measure from the Department of Health. Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Department of Education.

Your Committee finds that swimming and water-safety skills are essential life skills that contribute to safety, health, and overall well-being. Your Committee further finds that clear and consistent standards for student swimmer classification can support student safety, appropriate instruction, and equitable participation in school-based aquatic activities. This measure requests the Department of Education to develop a swimmer classification framework to support safer participation in physical education, interscholastic athletics, outdoor education,

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and enrichment programs, while promoting equity in access to essential water-safety skills.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Education that is attached to this report, your Committee concurs with the intent and purpose of H.C.R. No. 161 and recommends its adoption.

Respectfully submitted on  
behalf of the members of the  
Committee on Education,

*for push to Choice*  
JUSTIN H. WOODSON, Chair



Record of Votes of the Committee on Education

<b>Bill/Resolution No.:</b> HCR 161	<b>Committee Referral:</b> EDN	<b>Date:</b> 3/31/26		
<input type="checkbox"/> The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on the measure.				
<b>The recommendation is to:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended (as is) <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments (HD) <input type="checkbox"/> Hold <input type="checkbox"/> Pass short form bill with HD to recommit for future public hearing (recommit)				
EDN Members	Ayes	Ayes (WR)	Nays	Excused
1. WOODSON, Justin H. (C)	/			
2. LA CHICA, Trish (VC)	/			
3. AMATO, Terez	/			
4. EVSLIN, Luke A.	/			
5. GARRETT, Andrew Takuya				/
6. KAPELA, Jeanne	/			
7. KILA, Darius K.				/
8. OLDS, Ikaika	/			
9. MURAOKA, Christopher L.				/
10. SOUZA, Kanani				/
<b>TOTAL (10)</b>	6			4
<b>The recommendation is:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted If joint referral, _____ did not support recommendation. <span style="margin-left: 150px;">committee acronym(s)</span>				
<b>Vice Chair's or designee's signature:</b> _____ 				
<b>Distribution:</b> Original (White) – Committee      Duplicate (Yellow) – Chief Clerk's Office      Duplicate (Pink) – HMSO				