

Honolulu, Hawaii
, 2026

APR 09

RE: H.R. No. 83

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.R. No. 83 entitled:

"HOUSE RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES AND DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO COLLABORATE TO ESTABLISH A FORMAL, LONG-TERM COLLABORATIVE PROGRAM TO EXPAND, EQUITABLY DISTRIBUTE, AND SUSTAIN TREE-CANOPY COVERAGE ACROSS PUBLIC SCHOOLS STATE WIDE,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to request the Department of Land and Natural Resources and Department of Education to establish a formal, long-term collaborative program to expand, equitably distribute, and sustain tree-canopy coverage across public schools statewide.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Land and Natural Resources; Hawai'i Public Health Institute; Healthy Eating, Active Living; and Kaululani Urban & Community Forestry Advisory Council.

Your Committee finds that excessive heat and limited shade on public school campuses can negatively affect student health and learning conditions. Your Committee further finds that disparities in tree-canopy coverage across public schools, particularly at schools serving lower-income communities, raise concerns regarding equity and student well-being. Your Committee



additionally finds that trees can provide environmental, health, and educational benefits. This measure requests the Department of Land and Natural Resources and the Department of Education to collaborate in establishing a formal, long term program to expand, equitably distribute, and sustain tree canopy coverage across public schools statewide that will ensure durable climate, health, and educational benefits for Hawaii's students.

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.R. No. 83 and recommends its adoption.

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

for Trustable Choice

JUSTIN H. WOODSON, Chair



Record of Votes of the Committee on Education

Bill/Resolution No.: HR 83	Committee Referral: WAL, EDN	Date: 4/7/26		
<input type="checkbox"/> The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on the measure.				
The recommendation is to: <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	/			
TOTAL (10)	10			
The recommendation is: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted If joint referral, _____ did not support recommendation. <small>committee acronym(s)</small>				
Vice Chair's or designee's signature: _____				
Distribution: Original (White) – Committee Duplicate (Yellow) – Chief Clerk's Office Duplicate (Pink) – HMSO				