

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 2341

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 18 2026

RE: S.B. No. 2875

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

Sir:

Your Committee on Education, to which was referred S.B. No. 2875 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to require the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board to develop a temporary alternative pathway for a visiting international educator permit aligned to the duration of the educator's J-1 visa program, which would repeal on June 30, 2031.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Education, The Legal Clinic, and one individual.

Your Committee received testimony in opposition to this measure from the Hawai'i Teacher Standards Board and one individual.

Your Committee finds that the State is facing a persistent teacher shortage, particularly in hard-to-staff schools and high-need subject areas. In an effort to fill this gap, the State allows unlicensed teachers from out-of-state or overseas to teach in the State for a maximum of three years. Currently, international teachers must leave the State after the three-year period, despite the federal J-1 teacher exchange visitor visa allowing an international teacher to remain in the United States



for up to five years. This results in a lost opportunity for the State to retain the benefit of an international teacher filling a short-staffed position for an additional two years. This measure would enable the State to create a pathway for international teachers to remain in the State for the full five years permitted under the J-1 visa, which would help strengthen the educational community for students and teachers in the State.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Education that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 2875 and recommends that it pass Second Reading and be referred to your Committee on Ways and Means.

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



DONNA MERCADO KIM, Chair



The Senate
 Thirty-Third Legislature
 State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Education
EDU

Bill / Resolution No.:*	Committee Referral:	Date:		
SB 2875	EDU, WAM	02/13/2026		
<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
KIM, Donna Mercado (C)	/			
KIDANI, Michelle N. (VC)	/			
FUKUNAGA, Carol				/
HASHIMOTO, Troy N.				/
DECORTE, Samantha	/			
TOTAL	3			2
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: <i>Michelle N. Kidani</i>				
Distribution: Original Yellow Pink File with Committee Report Committee Drafting Agency				

*Only one measure per Record of Votes