

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 18 2026

RE: S.B. No. 2877  
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 Education, to which was referred S.B. No. 2877 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to:

- (1) Require the Department of Education to establish a one-year Student-Authored Book Publication Pilot Program for fifth graders at Kalihi public elementary schools;
- (2) Require a report to the Legislature; and
- (3) Appropriate funds.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from Princess Miriam K. Likelike Elementary School, Teach for America Hawai'i, HawaiiKidsCAN, and eight individuals.

Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Department of Education.

Your Committee finds that innovative measures to elevate local voices and deepen connections to family and community offer unique opportunities to advance the State's attendance and literacy objectives in public education. As demonstrated by



successful programs in schools in the County of Kauai, self-authored publishing projects empower students to strengthen literacy and affirm their cultural identities. Promoting engaging opportunities to apply critical skillsets, such as research, writing, and self-expression, improves outcomes for students beyond the classroom. This measure fosters students' pride in their identities and communities while supporting literacy efforts.

Your Committee acknowledges the testimony of Princess Miriam K. Likelike Elementary School that the pilot program should be integrated into the existing fifth grade curricula of participating schools, rather than being implemented as a stand-alone program, to provide the flexibility necessary for teachers to collaborate and plan how best to fit the project into existing academic schedules. Your Committee further notes that the pilot program could then serve as a capstone project within the existing curricula. Therefore, amendments to this measure are necessary to address this matter.

Accordingly, your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Requiring the pilot program to be integrated into the existing grade five curricula of participating schools as a capstone; and
- (2) Making a technical, nonsubstantive amendment for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

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. 2877, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 2877, S.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Ways and Means.

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



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DONNA MERCADO KIM, Chair



The Senate  
 Thirty-Third Legislature  
 State of Hawai'i

**Record of Votes**  
**Committee on Education**  
**EDU**

Bill / Resolution No.:* <i>SB 2877</i>	Committee Referral: <i>EDU, WAM</i>	Date: <i>02/11/2026</i>		
<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 type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input checked="" 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	✓			
<b>TOTAL</b>	<i>3</i>			<i>2</i>
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: <div style="text-align:center; font-family: cursive; font-size: 1.2em;">Michelle N. Kidani</div>				
<b>Distribution:</b> Original     Yellow     Pink File with Committee Report     Committee     Drafting Agency				

\*Only one measure per Record of Votes