

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 2859

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 05 2026

RE: S.B. No. 3279
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 S.B. No. 3279, S.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to increase accountability in public education.

Specifically, this measure:

- (1) Statutorily establishes the Board of Education Internal Audit Office and appropriates moneys for its establishment and functions;
- (2) Requires the Board of Education to establish a standing committee with a scope that includes audits; and
- (3) Prohibits moneys appropriated to the Department of Education from being used to fund or support certain positions or expenses.

Your Committee received written testimony in opposition to this measure from one individual.



Your Committee received written comments on this measure from the Board of Education, Department of Education, and one individual.

Your Committee finds that program and fiscal evaluations are essential for ensuring that programs are efficient, effective, and accountable. Your Committee further finds that statutorily establishing a Board of Education Internal Audit Office and requiring the Board of Education to maintain a standing committee with a scope that includes audit-related responsibilities are vital to providing oversight that ensures the effective use of Department resources. To avoid the potential over-expenditure of funds, your Committee notes that this measure prohibits moneys from being expended on certain existing functions and positions.

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 S.B. No. 3279, S.D. 1, and recommends that it pass Third Reading.

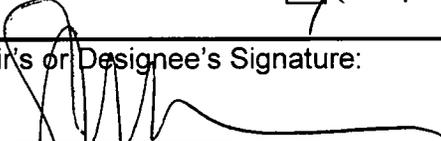
Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Ways and Means,


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:		
SB 0279, SD 1	EDU, WAM	3/3/2026		
<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