

Honolulu, Hawaii

APR 20 , 2026

RE: S.C.R. No. 112
S.D. 1

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

Madame:

Your Committees on Higher Education and Education, to which was referred S.C.R. No. 112, S.D. 1, entitled:

"SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM, IN COLLABORATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION, TO REQUIRE COMPLETION OF COMPREHENSIVE COURSEWORK IN READING, LANGUAGE, AND LITERACY AS A CONDITION FOR GRADUATION FROM ANY STATE-APPROVED EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAM LEADING TO TEACHER LICENSURE,"

beg leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to request the University of Hawaii System, in collaboration with the Department of Education and other institutions of higher education, to require completion of comprehensive coursework in reading, language, and literacy as a condition for graduation from any state-approved educator preparation program leading to teacher licensure.

Your Committees received comments on this measure from the University of Hawai'i System.

Your Committees find that literacy is a foundational skill essential to academic success, workforce readiness, and civic participation. Evidence-based research on teaching methods encompasses cognitive science and neuroscience, emphasizing



instruction in phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension. While there are teacher preparation programs implemented nationwide, they do not require comprehensive literacy coursework required for instructional effectiveness. Your Committees believe that ensuring all teacher candidates are equipped with research- and evidence-based reading instruction practices will improve student literacy and strengthen educator readiness.

As affirmed by the records of votes of the members of your Committees on Higher Education and Education that are attached to this report, your Committees concur with the intent and purpose of S.C.R. No. 112, S.D. 1, and recommend its adoption.

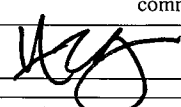
Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committees on Higher Education
and Education,

for *Push to Advance*
JUSTIN H. WOODSON, Chair

ATG
ANDREW TAKUYA GARRETT, Chair



Record of Votes of the Committee on Higher Education

| | | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------|----------------|
| Bill/Resolution No.: SCR 112 SD1 | Committee Referral: HED/EDN | Date: 4/16/20 | | |
| <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) | | | | |
| HED Members | Ayes | Ayes (WR) | Nays | Excused |
| 1. GARRETT, Andrew Takuya (C) | ✓ | | | |
| 2. AMATO, Terez (VC) | ✓ | | | |
| 3. EVSLIN, Luke A. | ✓ | | | |
| 4. KAPELA, Jeanne | | | | ✓ |
| 5. KILA, Darius K. | | | | ✓ |
| 6. LA CHICA, Trish | ✓ | | | |
| 7. OLDS, Ikaika | ✓ | | | |
| 8. WOODSON, Justin H. | ✓ | | | |
| 9. MURAOKA, Christopher L. | ✓ | | | |
| 10. SOUZA, Kanani | ✓ | | | |
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| TOTAL (10) | 8 | - | - | 2 |
| The recommendation is: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted If joint referral, _____ did not support recommendation. committee acronym(s) | | | | |
| Vice Chair's or designee's signature:  | | | | |
| Distribution: Original (White) – Committee Duplicate (Yellow) – Chief Clerk's Office Duplicate (Pink) – HMSO | | | | |

Record of Votes of the Committee on Education

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| The recommendation is to: <input 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 | / | | | |
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| TOTAL (10) | 8 | | | 2 |
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| Vice Chair's or designee's signature: _____ | | | | |
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