

STAND. COM. REP. NO. **3603**

Honolulu, Hawaii

APR 08 2026

RE: S.R. No. 153
S.D. 1

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

Sir:

Your Committees on Education and Hawaiian Affairs, to which was referred S.R. No. 153 entitled:

"SENATE RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO CONVENE A SHARED-DECISION MAKING COMMITTEE TO DEVELOP AN ACTION PLAN TO ESTABLISH A K-12 KAIAPUNI SCHOOL IN KAPOLEI,"

beg leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to request the Department of Education to convene a shared decision-making committee to develop an action plan to establish a K-12 Kaiapuni school in Kapolei.

Your Committees received testimony in support of this measure from Changemakers Hawai'i, Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs, Ke 'Alohi 'O 'Ewa, Pearl City Neighborhood Board, and twenty-four individuals.

Your Committees received comments on this measure from the University of Hawai'i System, Department of Education, Office of Hawaiian Affairs, 'Aha Kauleo, and one individual.

Your Committees find that long-standing systemic gaps in Hawaiian Immersion education have prevented the State from fully fulfilling its constitutional obligation to promote the study of Hawaiian culture, history, and language. Kaiapuni education is essential to building identity, cultural continuity, and community



resilience among Native Hawaiians. This measure seeks to increase capacity in the State's Kaiapuni educational system to expand access and safeguard continuity of culturally grounded education within local communities.

Your Committees note that the proposed new Kaiapuni school in Kapolei discussed in this measure would be for K-12 students and therefore finds that input from parents and leaders of existing elementary schools and programs would help improve the requested action plan. Therefore, amendments to this measure are necessary to address this matter.


Accordingly, your Committees have amended this measure by:


- (1) Requesting that the shared decision-making committee:
 - (A) Include principals from relevant elementary schools, such as Nanakuli Elementary School and Waiiau Elementary School; and
 - (B) Include an additional parent of a current student of an elementary Kaiapuni program;
- (2) Inserting language that requests the action plan to include the predicted statewide impact of establishing a new Kaiapuni K-12 school in Kapolei on existing Kaiapuni schools and programs; and
- (3) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

As affirmed by the records of votes of the members of your Committees on Education and Hawaiian Affairs that are attached to this report, your Committees concur with the intent and purpose of S.R. No. 153, as amended herein, and recommend its adoption in the form attached hereto as S.R. No. 153, S.D. 1.



Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committees on Education and
Hawaiian Affairs,


HERBERT M. RICHARDS, III, Chair


DONNA MERCADO KIM, Chair



The Senate
Thirty-Third Legislature
State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Hawaiian Affairs
HWN

Bill / Resolution No.:* SR153	Committee Referral: EDU/HWN	Date: 4/8/24		
<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
RICHARDS, III, Herbert M. "Tim" (C)	✓			
LAMOSAO, Rachele (VC)	✓			✓
IHARA, Jr., Les				✓
KEOHOKALOLE, Jarrett				✓
DECORTE, Samantha	✓			
TOTAL	3	0	0	2
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