



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
KA 'OIHANA HO'ONA'AUAO
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

Date: 02/12/2026

Time: 10:30 AM

Location: 329 VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Committee: HSH

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: HB2012, HD1, RELATING TO COMMUNITY LITERACY LABS.

Purpose of Bill: Establishes and appropriates funds for the Department of Education to establish and implement a two-year Community Literacy Labs Pilot Program. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1)

Department's Position:

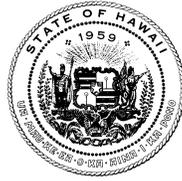
The Hawai'i State Department of Education (Department) recognizes that the ideas proposed in HB 2012 HD1, which requests that the Department establish a two-year community literacy labs pilot program in at least five communities with Title I funding, prioritizing areas with high percentages of students reading below grade level, high poverty, limited access to resources, high populations of English language learners and housing instability, are good ideas. However, given the fiscal constraints facing the state the Department cannot support the bill in its current form. The Department wishes to continue working with the Legislature to explore potential paths forward.

The Department supports the spirit of this bill and concurs that after school tutoring programs may benefit students.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB 2012 HD1.

JOSH B. GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



STACEY A. ALDRICH
STATE LIBRARIAN
Ke Po'o Hale Waihona Puke Moku'āina

STATE OF HAWAII
HAWAII STATE PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM
'OIHANA HALE WAIHONA PUKE AUPUNI O KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII'
OFFICE OF THE STATE LIBRARIAN
44 MERCHANT STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
(808) 586-3704

House Committee on Human Services and Homelessness
February 12, 2026, 10:30 a.m.
State Capitol, Room 329

HB 2012 HD1 – Relating to Community Literacy Labs

To: Rep. Lisa Marten, Chair
Rep. Ikaika Olds, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Human Services and Homelessness

The Hawai'i State Public Library System (HSPLS) **supports the intent** of HB 2012 HD1 which would establish and appropriate funds for the Department of Education to establish and implement a two-year Community Literacy Labs Pilot Program.

The purpose of this bill is to improve early literacy, reading proficiency, and lifelong educational outcomes by establishing a two-year community literacy labs pilot program in certain underserved and high-need communities.

Kofi Annan wrote "Literacy is a bridge from misery to hope. It is a tool for daily life in modern society. It is a bulwark against poverty, and a building block of development..." Literacy is crucial to the success of our students and the future of Hawai'i. Our public libraries are dedicated to strengthening literacy and currently provide weekly story times for early readers and programs like Read to a Dog for reluctant readers.

HSPLS is supportive of the intent of this measure to extend literacy opportunities into communities where there is great need. If this bill were to be adopted and funded, HSPLS is willing to partner with the Department of Education to bring literacy programs to more community members.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB 2012 HD1 and for your continued support of literacy and the Hawai'i State Public Library System.