

**SB-2877-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 9:46:16 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/25/2026 10:55:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Johnnie-Mae L. Perry	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I, Johnnie-Mae L. Perry, Support

2877 SB RELATING TO EDUCATION.

NOT ONLY ENGLISH BUT IN OTHER LANGUAGES SUCH AS PACIFIC ISLANDER, FILIPINO, DUAL LANGUAGE STORIES. BRANCH OUT TO OTHER COMMUNITIES IN THE FUTURE.

**Date:** 02/25/2026  
**Time:** 10:55 AM  
**Location:** 211  
**Committee:** WAM

**DEPARTMENT:** Education  
**BILL:** SB2877, Relating to Establishing a Student-Authored Book Publication Pilot Program  
**TESTIFIER:** Daniel Larkin

**POSITION:** OPPOSITION OR REQUEST FOR AMENDMENT

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki and Members of the Committee,

As a school principal at a high needs school in Kalihi for five years, vice-principal at that same school before that and teacher at a different high needs Kalihi school I believe I am qualified to speak on behalf of my staff and stand opposed to this bill as it stands. I do like the concept and ideas put forth in this bill, however, I oppose the mandate section and would request that the language mandating its implementation be amended to be optional with support.

The reasoning behind this is two fold:

Firstly, our schools are mandated to teach the standards as outlined in the Hawaii Common Core State Standards (HCCSS) and as such we plan for the rollout of those standards, the curriculum utilized to meet these standards and a plan to assess those standards is completed the year before and utilizes nearly every moment of the school year. To add on a mandated curriculum for implementation within one year does not meet the mandated standards and may actually detract from the students meeting these standards if the curriculum or program is not vetted and properly trained ahead of time with plenty of warning.

The second issue is that each school is already proceeding with implementing new training and new programs for next school year. While some may have the ability to take on this program and implement it properly, others may not. My own school is pursuing a book publishing program with the support of a community member, but done on our own terms at a pace we can handle. Other schools are not likely at the point where they can take on this challenge at this time.

I do like the concept and idea of this bill yet urge the Committee to HOLD SB 2877 or AMEND it to remove the mandate in order to allow schools to receive the support and proceed with the concept who are able to at this time yet afford schools who are unable to do so to maintain ability to forgo this project if they are unable to support at this time.

Respectfully,

Daniel Larkin  
Principal