
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

ENCOURAGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO ESTABLISH STANDARDS
OF BRAILLE PROFICIENCY AND INSTRUCTION.

1 WHEREAS, every child, whether blind, visually impaired, or
2 not, has the right to learn to read; and
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4 WHEREAS, for children who are blind or visually impaired,
5 this right should include provisions for instruction in braille
6 and the use of braille appropriate to the child's current and
7 future literacy needs; and
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9 WHEREAS, for consistent and successful braille instruction,
10 it is important to apply literacy standards that relate directly
11 to braille education; and
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13 WHEREAS, at least 33 states have already adopted braille
14 literacy standards; and
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16 WHEREAS, although these standards were adopted in various
17 forms, most were based on a model prepared by the National
18 Federation of the Blind (NFB), and two states that passed their
19 own versions of braille literacy standards later amended them to
20 conform to the NFB model; and
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22 WHEREAS, adoption of braille literacy standards will help
23 ensure that all blind or visually impaired children receive
24 appropriate reading instruction; now, therefore,
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26 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
27 Twenty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
28 of 2006, the Senate concurring, that the Department of Education
29 (DOE) is encouraged to establish standards of braille
30 instruction and proficiency; and
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32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in developing individualized
33 education programs (IEP) for children who are blind or visually



1 impaired, DOE make provisions for instruction in and use of
2 braille; and

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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if the IEP team determines
5 after an evaluation of the child's reading and writing skills,
6 needs, and a determination of an appropriate reading and writing
7 medium for the child, including an evaluation of the child's
8 future needs for instruction in or use of braille, that such
9 instruction or use is not appropriate for the child, a statement
10 be provided attesting that the determination was based on a
11 review of pertinent assessments, including a specification of
12 evidence used; and

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14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that instruction in reading and
15 writing braille be sufficient to enable each blind or visually
16 impaired child to communicate effectively and efficiently, with
17 the same level of proficiency as is expected of the child's
18 peers of comparable ability and grade level; and

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20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the child's IEP include or
21 incorporate:

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- 23 (1) Results obtained from evaluations of the child's
24 reading and writing skills and needs, including an
25 evaluation of the child's future needs for instruction
26 in or use of braille;
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28 (2) The manner in which braille will be implemented as the
29 primary mode of learning through integration with
30 other classroom activities;
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32 (3) The date on which braille instruction will commence;
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34 (4) A record of braille instruction services provided to
35 the child; and
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37 (5) The level of competency in braille reading and writing
38 to be achieved and objective assessment measures to be
39 used;

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41 and

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43 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
44 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Superintendent of



H.C.R. NO. 268

1 Education, Chairperson of the Board of Education, Executive
2 Director of the Disability and Communication Access Board,
3 President of the Honolulu Chapter of the National Federation of
4 the Blind Hawaii, and Chairperson of the Hoopono Advisory Board.

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OFFERED BY:

Blakely

MAR 15 2006

