

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

2079

Honolulu, Hawaii

Feb. 15

, 2006

RE: S.B. No. 2732
S.D. 1

Honorable Robert Bunda
President of the Senate
Twenty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2006
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Education and Military Affairs, to which
was referred S.B. No. 2732 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE BLIND PERSONS' AND
LITERACY RIGHTS AND EDUCATION ACT,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to ensure that the
individualized education program of each blind or visually
impaired child includes provisions for instruction in braille and
the use of braille appropriate to the child's current and future
literary needs.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure
from the Department of Education, the Department of Human
Services, the National Federation of the Blind of Hawaii, Hawaii
Centers for Independent Living, the Hoopono Advisory Board, and
ten private individuals. Testimony in opposition was received
from the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board.

Your Committee finds that increased braille instruction is
necessary to build the literacy skills of blind and visually-
impaired children so that they may be better equipped to compete
with their counterparts with sight.

The measure has been amended to reflect all the changes
proposed by the Department of Education, which suggested omitting
the "computer-accessible format capable of braille reproduction"
language, clarified the necessary documentation required for each

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individualized education program, and substituted the certification authority for braille literacy for ESLL teachers.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Education and Military Affairs that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 2732, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. 2732, S.D. 1, and be referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Education and
Military Affairs,



NORMAN SAKAMOTO, Chair



