

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 16 2007

RE: S.B. No. 606
S.D. 1

Honorable Colleen Hanabusa
President of the Senate
Twenty-Fourth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2007
State of Hawaii

Madam:

Your Committees on Education and Human Services and Public Housing, to which was referred S.B. No. 606 entitled:

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

beg leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to enact the Blind Persons' Literacy Rights and Education Act.

Your Committees received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Human Services, Disability and Communications Access Board, and four individuals. Testimony in opposition was received from the Department of Education and one individual.

This measure establishes standards for Braille proficiency and instruction. Braille should be a fundamental part of a blind or visually impaired person's education that teaches independence through access to printed information. Every blind or visually impaired child in public school should be taught to read in a format that is accessible to the individual child, whether it is in print or Braille, to foster independence.

Your Committees have amended this measure by:

- (1) Deleting the instructional materials provision, which is covered by the federal Individuals with Disabilities



Education Improvement Act of 2004 and the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board;

- (2) Deleting the certification provision, which would discourage the recruitment of Braille teachers; and
- (3) Adding an appropriation for the training of Braille teachers, to increase their competency.

As affirmed by the records of votes of the members of your Committees on Education and Human Services and Public Housing that are attached to this report, your Committees are in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 606, as amended herein, and recommend that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 606, S.D. 1, and be referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committees on Education and
Human Services and Public
Housing,


Suzanne Chun Oakland
SUZANNE CHUN OAKLAND, Chair

Norman Sakamoto
NORMAN SAKAMOTO, Chair



The Senate
Twenty-Fourth Legislature
State of Hawaii

Record of Votes
Committee on Education
EDU

Bill / Resolution No.:*	Committee Referral:	Date:		
SB 606	EDU / HSP, WAM	02/14/07		
<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
SAKAMOTO, Norman (C)	X			
TOKUDA, Jill N. (VC)	X			
CHUN OAKLAND, Suzanne	X			
HEE, Clayton				X
NISHIHARA, Clarence K.				X
TANIGUCHI, Brian T.	X			
GABBARD, Mike	X			
TOTAL	5	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	Clerk's Office	Drafting Agency		

*Only one measure per Record of Votes

The Senate
Twenty-Fourth Legislature
State of Hawaii

Record of Votes
Committee on Human Services and Public Housing
HSP

Bill / Resolution No.:* <i>SR 606</i>	Committee Referral: <i>EDU / HSP, WAM</i>	Date: <i>2-14-07</i>		
<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
CHUN OAKLAND, Suzanne (C)	✓			
IHARA, Jr., Les (VC)	✓			
SAKAMOTO, Norman	✓			
HEMMINGS, Fred	✓			
TOTAL	<i>4</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: <i>[Signature]</i>				
Distribution: Original Yellow Pink File with Committee Report Clerk's Office Drafting Agency				

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