

Honolulu, Hawaii

Feb 14, 2007

RE: H.B. No. 1504  
H.D. 1

Honorable Calvin K.Y. Say  
Speaker, House of Representatives  
Twenty-Fourth State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2007  
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Education, to which was referred H.B. No. 1504 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 bill is to improve the quality of education for blind persons by:

- (1) Assuring 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 literacy needs;
- (2) Establishing standards of proficiency and instruction;
- (3) Requiring publishers of educational textbooks sold to the State to provide electronic versions in braille; and
- (4) Requiring teachers certified in the education of blind and visually impaired children to be competent in reading and writing braille, as part of the teachers' certification and renewal process.



The Disability and Communication Access Board testified in support of this bill. The Department of Education did not support this measure.

Your Committee has amended this bill by:

- (1) Clarifying that the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board, rather than DOE, is responsible for issuing licenses to teach the visually impaired; and
- (2) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for clarity, consistency, and style.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Education that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 1504, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 1504, H.D. 1, and be referred to the Committee on Finance.

Respectfully submitted on  
behalf of the members of the  
Committee on Education,



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ROY TAKUMI, Chair



