

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 1531

Honolulu, Hawaii
Aug 27, 2009

RE: S.C.R. No. 30
H.D. 1

Honorable Calvin K.Y. Say
Speaker, House of Representatives
Twenty-Fifth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2009
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Education, to which was referred S.C.R. No. 30 entitled:

"SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO CONDUCT A FEASIBILITY STUDY ON CONVERTING HARD COVER TEXT BOOKS TO E-BOOKS FOR USE IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this concurrent resolution is to request the Department of Education to:

- (1) Conduct a feasibility study on converting hard cover text books to e-books for use in public schools, including considerations of cost and computer accessibility; and
- (2) Report its findings and recommendations, including cost estimates, to the 2010 Legislature.

The Department of Education and a concerned citizen supported this measure. The Disability and Communications Access Board supported this measure with amendments.

Your Committee has amended this measure by adding provisions to address the needs of blind and visually impaired individuals, including:

- (1) Stating that converting textbooks to an e-book format would make textbooks accessible to students who are blind or visually impaired without the necessity of converting the print format to braille;
- (2) Including in the study a review of accessibility features for students who are blind or visually impaired; and
- (3) Including in the study consideration for feedback from individuals who are blind or visually impaired regarding the use of e-books and screenreader technologies to ensure accessibility for all students.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Education that is attached to this report, your Committee concurs with the intent and purpose of S.C.R. No. 30, as amended herein, and recommends that it be referred to the Committee on Finance in the form attached hereto as S.C.R. No. 30, H.D. 1.

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

Jyla B. Berg
for ROY TAKUMI, Chair



