

SCR30

Date of Hearing: March 16, 2009

Committee: Senate Education and Housing

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Patricia Hamamoto, Superintendent

Title: S.C.R. 030, Feasibility Study

Purpose: Requests the department of education to conduct a feasibility study on converting hard cover text books to e-books for use in public schools.

Department's Position: The Department of Education (Department) supports a feasibility study on converting hard cover textbooks to e-books for use in public schools. There are advantages of providing e-books. They may be easily updated and documents can be stored and read utilizing multiple technologies such as laptops, pocket computers, and e-book reading devices. E-books will support the implementation efforts of the Hawaii Virtual Learning Network (HVLN), a statewide online learning program for students, by providing students in remote areas access to high quality content. The Department supports a feasibility study as specified in S.C.R. 030.



# HAWAII TECHNOLOGY ACADEMY<sup>SM</sup>

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March 16, 2009

Honorable Norman Sakamoto, Chair  
Honorable Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Education and Housing

**Re: SCR 30, requesting the Department of Education to conduct a feasibility study on converting hard cover text books to e-books for use in public schools - SUPPORT**

EDH Hearing - Conference Room 225, Monday, March 16, 2009, 1:15 p.m.

Aloha Chair Sakamoto, Vice Chair Kidani and members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Hawaii Technology Academy, one of 31 of Hawaii's charter schools that are part of the state's public school system, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SCR 30, requesting the Department of Education to conduct a feasibility study on converting hard cover text books to e-books for use in public schools.

Our public charter school features a combination of online learning facilitated by a parent or other responsible adult with monthly face-to-face interaction with a state-certified teacher and activities. We utilize a combination of both online curriculum and offline materials, including textbooks, CDs, videos, and hands-on manipulatives, to complement interactive online elements to address different learning styles and maximize the learning experience for all students. We believe that this approach helps to build on the previous grades' teaching and to weave an ever-richer tapestry of knowledge to meet each individual child's needs.

Hawaii Technology Academy supports the concept of having a range of resources that are current, enhance each lesson, and allow students to learn at their own pace. We can attest to benefit of having e-books in our curriculum. In this time of rapidly changing world affairs, science and technology advancement, and new discoveries that change the very foundation of our economic system, the legacy concept of textbooks needs to be revised to encompass the need for rapid changes in content presented to students. E-books and publishers can accomplish this. Therefore, we urge the study of converting hard-cover textbooks to e-books in public schools.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge members of your committee to support the passage of SCR 30.

Sincerely,

Jeff Piontek  
Head of School  
Hawaii Technology Academy