
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE HAWAII TEACHER STANDARDS BOARD TO ACCEPT THE
NATIONAL ORIENTATION AND MOBILITY CERTIFICATION FOR
TEACHERS PROVIDING ORIENTATION AND MOBILITY SERVICES.

1 WHEREAS, the Department of Education has perennially
2 struggled to fill vacancies for teacher of blind students or
3 teacher of the visually impaired positions, including positions
4 providing specialized instruction in orientation and mobility;
5 and
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7 WHEREAS, blind children in Hawaii end up being underserved
8 with regard to orientation and mobility in the Department of
9 Education, reducing their opportunity to participate equally and
10 meaningfully with their sighted peers and build their capacity
11 to contribute to the State's communities; and
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13 WHEREAS, the Department of Education currently has no
14 employees who hold the National Orientation and Mobility
15 Certification (NOMC) from the National Blindness Professional
16 Certification Board (NBPCB); and
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18 WHEREAS, for the teaching of orientation and mobility, the
19 Department of Education currently only accepts the Certified
20 Orientation and Mobility Specialist certification from the
21 Academy for Certification of Vision Rehabilitation and Education
22 Professionals, which only gives the Department of Education the
23 personnel resources to provide vision-centered orientation and
24 mobility services, one of two major forms of orientation and
25 mobility; and
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27 WHEREAS, the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board currently does
28 not accept the NOMC offered by the NBPCB, making the Department
29 of Education unable to provide Structured Discovery Cane Travel,
30 a service which can only be provided by a professional certified
31 by the NBPCB; and
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1 WHEREAS, when parents of blind children needing Structured
2 Discovery Cane Travel request it as a service on their
3 Individualized Education Plans, they are consistently told that
4 the Department of Education is unable to provide this service,
5 thus leaving their blind child without sufficient services; and
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7 WHEREAS, for decades, Structured Discovery Cane Travel has
8 been empowering blind children and adults across the United
9 States, helping them build confidence and feelings of self-
10 respect as they navigate their world safely and without shame
11 about their blindness; and
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13 WHEREAS, the methods and principles that undergird
14 Structured Discovery Cane Travel come from the lived experiences
15 of blind men and women who have shared their experiences,
16 attitudes, and techniques with each other since 1940, leading to
17 instructional services consisting of non-visual techniques,
18 problem solving strategies, experiential learning, confidence
19 building experiences, and the role modeling of non-visual
20 techniques, which demonstrate their effectiveness while
21 correcting misconceptions about blindness; and
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23 WHEREAS, the NOMC from the NBPCB is already accepted by the
24 Hawaii Division of Vocational Rehabilitation in order to provide
25 orientation and mobility services, where, in fact, all current
26 providers of orientation and mobility services are blind adults
27 certified by the NBPCB; now, therefore,
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29 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
30 Thirtieth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of
31 2019, that the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board is requested to
32 accept the National Orientation and Mobility Certification from
33 the National Blindness Professional Certification Board for
34 teachers providing orientation and mobility services in the
35 Department; and
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37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
38 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Lieutenant Governor,
39 Chairperson of the Board of Education, Superintendent of the
40 Department of Education, Chairperson of the Hawaii Teacher
41 Standards Board, Administrator of the Hawaii Division of



1 Vocational Rehabilitation Services for the Blind Branch
2 (Ho'opono), President of the National Blindness Professional
3 Certification Board, President of the National Federation of the
4 Blind of Hawaii, and President of the Hawaii Association of the
5 Blind.

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