

MAR 08 2019

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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION 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 Department of Education currently does not  
28 accept the NOMC offered by the NBPCB, making the Department of  
29 Education unable to provide Structured Discovery Cane Travel, a  
30 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 Senate of the Thirtieth Legislature  
30 of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2019, the House of  
31 Representatives concurring, that the Department of Education is  
32 requested to accept the National Orientation and Mobility  
33 Certification from the National Blindness Professional  
34 Certification Board for teachers providing orientation and  
35 mobility services in the Department; and  
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37           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
38 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Lieutenant  
39 Governor, Chairperson of the Board of Education, Superintendent  
40 of the Department of Education, Administrator of the Hawaii  
41 Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services for the Blind  
42 Branch (Ho'opono), President of the National Blindness



1 Professional Certification Board, President of the National  
2 Federation of the Blind of Hawaii, and President of the Hawaii  
3 Association of the Blind.

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OFFERED BY:

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