

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 1607 -22

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 31 , 2022

RE: H.R. No. 11
H.D. 1

Honorable Scott K. Saiki
Speaker, House of Representatives
Thirty-First State Legislature
Regular Session of 2022
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Education, to which was referred H.R. No. 11 entitled:

"HOUSE RESOLUTION URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT A PROGRAM TO RECRUIT AND EMPLOY QUALIFIED BLIND PERSONS TO SERVE AS ORIENTATION AND MOBILITY INSTRUCTORS, AND IN OTHER POSITIONS, AS TEACHERS OF VISUALLY IMPAIRED STUDENTS,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to urge the Department of Education to develop and implement an affirmative action program designed to recruit and employ qualified blind professionals to serve as orientation and mobility instructors and in other positions as teachers of visually impaired students.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Disability and Communication Access Board. Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Department of Human Services.

Your Committee finds that the National Orientation and Mobility Certification (NOMC) is a credentialing process administered by the National Blindness Professional Certification Board and includes training in teaching Structured Discovery Cane Travel, which has empowered blind children and adults across the

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United States. Your Committee further finds that the Department of Education has not employed NOMC credentialed professionals to teach matters of orientation and mobility to blind students. Your Committee believes that an affirmative action program to recruit and employ qualified blind professionals can be effective in educating students with disabilities and serve as a powerful example for these students by letting them know that their disability need not be a barrier for employment.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Amending its title to reflect its purpose; and
- (2) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of 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 concurs with the intent and purpose of H.R. No. 11, as amended herein, and recommends that it be referred to your Committee on Finance in the form attached hereto as H.R. No. 11, H.D. 1.

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


JUSTIN H. WOODSON, Chair



