

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 3721

Honolulu, Hawaii

APR 06 2022

RE: S.R. No. 5
S.D. 1

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Thirty-First State Legislature
Regular Session of 2022
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committees on Human Services and Education, to which was referred S.R. No. 5 entitled:

"SENATE 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,"

beg leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to urge the Department of Education to develop and implement an affirmative action program, to the extent permitted by law, 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 Committees received testimony in support of this measure from the Disability and Communication Access Board, National Federation of the Blind of Hawaii, Hawaii State Committee of Blind Vendors, and ten individuals. Your Committees received comments on this measure from the Department of Human Services and Academy for Certification of Vision Rehabilitation and Education Professionals.

Your Committees find that for decades, the methods and principles of Structured Discovery Cane Travel have empowered



blind children and adults across the United States, assisting them to build confidence and feelings of self-respect as they move safely from place to place. Your Committees find however, that until recently, the Department of Education has only enlisted as orientation and mobility instructors for blind students, individuals who are credentialed as Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialists (COMS) by the Academy for Certification of Vision Rehabilitation and Education Professionals. The COMS teaching method includes a variety of instructional strategies, including vision-centered orientation and mobility services, and does not focus on Structured Discovery Cane Travel. Of these two recognized training methods, adherents to the structured discovery approach emphasize employing blind instructors, which leads to increased employment opportunities at the Department of Education for qualified blind persons. By urging the Department of Education to develop and implement an affirmative action program to recruit and employ qualified blind professionals to serve as orientation and mobility instructors and teachers of visually impaired students, this measure will not only provide more opportunities for blind instructors in the workforce, but also provide a powerful example to students with a disability that their disability need not be a barrier for employment.

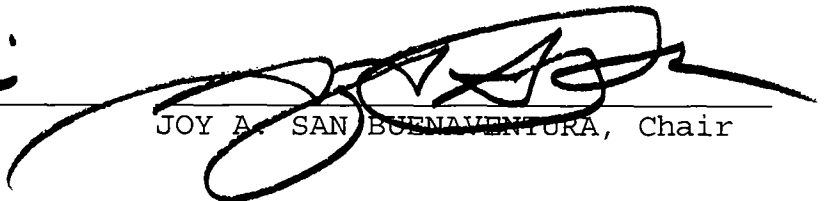
Your Committees have amended this measure by making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

As affirmed by the records of votes of the members of your Committees on Human Services and Education that are attached to this report, your Committees concur with the intent and purpose of S.R. No. 5, as amended herein, and recommend its adoption in the form attached hereto as S.R. No. 5, S.D. 1.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committees on Human Services
and Education,



MICHELLE N. KIDANI, Chair




JOY A. SAN BUENAVENTURA, Chair



The Senate
 Thirty-First Legislature
 State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Education
EDU

Bill / Resolution No.:* SR5	Committee Referral: HMS/EDU	Date: 3/31/22		
<input type="checkbox"/> The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is: <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
KIDANI, Michelle N. (C)	✓			
KIM, Donna Mercado (VC)				✓
DELA CRUZ, Donovan M.				✓
KANUHA, Dru Mamo	✓			
FEVELLA, Kurt	✓			
TOTAL	3			2
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: 				
Distribution: Original Yellow Pink Goldenrod File with Committee Report Clerk's Office Drafting Agency Committee File Copy				

*Only one measure per Record of Votes