

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

3302

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 22 2024

RE: H.B. No. 1837
H.D. 1
S.D. 1

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Thirty-Second State Legislature
Regular Session of 2024
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committees on Education and Transportation and Culture and the Arts, to which was referred H.B. No. 1837, H.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO SCHOOL SAFETY,"

beg leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to:

- (1) Require the Department of Education to grant public access to emergency action plans that do not pose a security risk to students, staff, or guests of school campuses;
- (2) Require each Department of Education school to have a comprehensive school evacuation communication plan for use during emergencies;
- (3) Require the Department of Education to collaborate with the Department of Transportation to assess all Department school campuses to determine if there are sufficient emergency evacuation routes for each campus and report to the Legislature; and
- (4) Appropriate funds.



Your Committees received testimony in support of this measure from the State Council on Developmental Disabilities, Special Education Advisory Council, one member of the Maui County Council, Hawaii State Teachers Association, Democratic Party of Hawai'i, Education Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i, and one individual.

Your Committees received comments on this measure from the Department of Education, Department of the Attorney General, Office of Language Access, and Disability and Communication Access Board.

Your Committees find that establishing emergency preparedness plans for Hawaii's public schools will provide students, staff, and members of the community with safe and accessible evacuation routes during unforeseen emergencies or disasters. The August 2023 Maui wildfires have additionally demonstrated a need to ensure all schools have multiple safe evacuation routes that are accessible for all users. Further, appropriate communication plans to address the unique needs of each community will provide cultural awareness and responsiveness during emergency situations. Therefore, this measure ensures school safety and emergency preparedness for all members of the State's public school communities.

Your Committees have amended this measure by:

- (1) Deleting language that would have authorized public access to the emergency action plans;
- (2) Clarifying that parents and guardians shall contact and provide schools with updated contact information throughout the school year as needed; and
- (3) 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 Education and Transportation and Culture and the Arts that are attached to this report, your Committees are in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 1837, H.D. 1, as amended herein, and recommend that it pass Second Reading in the



form attached hereto as H.B. No. 1837, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Ways and Means.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the members of the Committees on Education and Transportation and Culture and the Arts,



CHRIS LEE, Chair

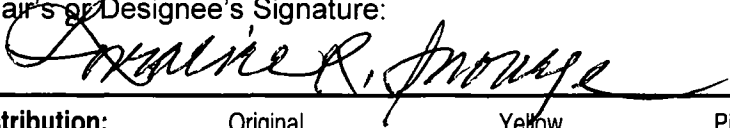


MICHELLE N. KIDANI, Chair



The Senate
 Thirty-Second Legislature
 State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Transportation and Culture and the Arts
TCA

Bill / Resolution No.:* HB1837 HDI	Committee Referral: EDU/TCA, WAM	Date: 3-20-2024		
<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
LEE, Chris (C)	✓			
INOUYE, Lorraine R. (VC)	✓			
ELEFANTE, Brandon J.C.				✓
KANUHA, Dru Mamo	✓			
AWA, Brenton				✓
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