

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 476

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 03 2011

RE: S.B. No. 810
S.D. 1

Honorable Shan S. Tsutsui
President of the Senate
Twenty-Sixth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2011
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Education, to which was referred S.B. No. 810 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to require the Department of Education to establish high school diploma requirements that will provide students with the knowledge and skills to prepare them for postsecondary education or training programs as well as careers that offer a living wage and opportunities for advancement.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the University of Hawaii system and the Hawaii P-20 Partnerships for Education (Hawaii P-20). Your Committee received testimony in opposition to this measure from two individuals. Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Student Member of the Board of Education. Your Committee notes that attached to Hawaii P-20's testimony were copies of 25 letters from community members in support of a college and career readiness diploma that were submitted to the Board of Education at its July 2010 meeting.

Your Committee received testimony indicating that the full Board of Education has not addressed the issue of college and career readiness diplomas because there are concerns that:




- (1) A new diploma implies that current diplomas are inadequate;
- (2) Career and college readiness diplomas require an additional year of math which would take away one elective from students and would otherwise take away students' abilities to customize their education and remain engaged in school; and
- (3) There is already a shortage of qualified math teachers in the State.

Despite these concerns, your Committee finds that revised diploma requirements would help ensure that students establish a strong academic foundation for success in college and in the workplace. Your Committee further notes that the Department of Education would be responsible for developing and implementing the requirements, and should work to ensure that students are able to customize their education to reflect their career interests while fulfilling diploma requirements.

Your Committee has amended this measure by requiring the Department of Education to report to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2012 on the effectiveness of the high school diploma requirements established pursuant to this measure.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Education that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 810, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 810, S.D. 1, and be placed on the calendar for Third Reading.

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



JILL TOKUDA, Chair



The Senate
Twenty-Sixth Legislature
State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Education
EDU

Bill / Resolution No.:* SB910	Committee Referral: EDU	Date: 1-31-11		
<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
TOKUDA, Jill N. (C)	✓			
KIDANI, Michelle N. (VC)	✓			
CHUN OAKLAND, Suzanne	✓			
NISHIHARA, Clarence K.	✓			
TANIGUCHI, Brian T.				✓
SLOM, Sam	✓			
TOTAL	5			1
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: <div style="text-align:center; font-family: cursive; font-size: 1.2em;">Michelle N. Kidani</div>				
Distribution: Original Yellow Pink Goldenrod File with Committee Report Clerk's Office Drafting Agency Committee File Copy				

*Only one measure per Record of Votes