
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE AUDITOR TO PERFORM AN AUDIT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION'S EFFORTS AND EFFICIENCY IN SUPPORTING STUDENTS
WITH DYSLEXIA.

1 WHEREAS, dyslexia is a learning disability that is
2 neurological in origin and is characterized by difficulties with
3 accurate or fluent word recognition, poor spelling, and poor
4 decoding abilities, which may result in problems in reading
5 comprehension and reduced reading experience that can impede
6 growth of vocabulary and background knowledge; and
7

8 WHEREAS, it is estimated that up to 20 percent of the
9 population as a whole in the United States has dyslexia or
10 another reading disability, costing taxpayers \$224,000,000,000 a
11 year in welfare payments, crime, job incompetence, lost taxes,
12 and remedial education for adult illiteracy; and
13

14 WHEREAS, it is best for a person with dyslexia to be taught
15 reading, writing, and spelling using a multi-sensory teaching
16 method such as alphabetic phonics; and
17

18 WHEREAS, the federal Individuals with Disabilities
19 Education Act (IDEA) mandates support for students with specific
20 learning disabilities, a category under which dyslexia falls;
21 and
22

23 WHEREAS, the Hawaii Department of Education works with
24 community children's councils to serve children and families
25 with disabilities and mental health needs through collaborative
26 partnerships; however the National Assessment of Educational
27 Progress (NAEP) completed a study in 2011, showing that Hawaii's
28 students in general read well below national averages; and
29

30 WHEREAS, the Department of Education provides services to
31 students ages 3 to 22 who demonstrate a need for specially
32 designed instruction through an Individualized Education Program



H.R. NO. 107

1 (IEP); however, some parents of students suffering from dyslexia
 2 allege that the Department of Education is not properly training
 3 educators in early recognition of dyslexia or providing
 4 educators with the proper tools for teaching those students
 5 diagnosed with dyslexia; now, therefore,

6
 7 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
 8 Twenty-eighth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
 9 Session of 2015, that the Auditor is requested to perform an
 10 audit of the Department of Education's efforts and efficiency in
 11 supporting those students with dyslexia; and

12
 13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Auditor submit a report of
 14 its findings and recommendations, included any proposed
 15 legislation, to the Legislature no later than 20 days prior to
 16 the convening of the Regular Session of 2016; and

17
 18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the report include information
 19 on all steps taken by the Department of Education in recognizing
 20 dyslexia in students and enrolling students with dyslexia into
 21 specialized programs, the number of students in each program,
 22 and the number of licensed reading teachers, licensed reading
 23 specialists, and licensed literacy specialists by grade level
 24 and subject matter; and

25
 26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 27 Resolution be transmitted to the Auditor, Chairperson of the
 28 Board of Education, Superintendent of Education, and Executive
 29 Director of the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board.

30
 31
 32 OFFERED BY: *[Signature]*

[Signature]
[Signature]

[Signature]
[Signature]

ASA - Richard Long
[Signature]
Allen a. Smith

