

STAND. COM. REP. NO. **2097**

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 08 2018

RE: S.B. No. 2521

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi  
President of the Senate  
Twenty-Ninth State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2018  
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Education, to which was referred S.B. No. 2521 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO SPECIAL EDUCATION,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to appropriate funds to the Department of Education to provide up to \$1,690 to each special education classroom teacher for instructional materials and equipment.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Education; Special Education Advisory Council; Hawaii State Teachers Association; United Public Workers, AFSCME, Local 646, AFL-CIO; Civic Education Council; IMUAlliance; and twelve individuals.

Your Committee finds that special education services, including academic, speech-language, psychological, physical and occupational, and counseling accommodations, meet the unique needs of students with disabilities. Governed by federal and state law, special education services are available to eligible students between three and twenty-two years of age who demonstrate a need for specially designed instruction. However, based on statewide assessments, most of the State's public school students with individualized education programs are performing below grade level in reading and mathematics. Therefore, investing in additional resources for special education teachers and classrooms may serve



as a catalyst in closing the achievement gap between special needs students and their general education peers.

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. 2521 and recommends that it pass Second Reading and be referred to your Committee on Ways and Means.

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



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MICHELLE N. KIDANI, Chair



The Senate  
 Twenty-Ninth Legislature  
 State of Hawai'i

**Record of Votes**  
**Committee on Education**  
**EDU**

Bill / Resolution No.:* <i>SB 2521</i>	Committee Referral: <i>EDU, WAM</i>	Date: <i>1/31/2018</i>		
<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
<b>Members</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Aye (WR)</b>	<b>Nay</b>	<b>Excused</b>
KIDANI, Michelle N. (C)	✓			
KAHELE, Kaiali'i (VC)	✓			
DELA CRUZ, Donovan M.	✓			
ESPERO, Will	✓			
KIM, Donna Mercado				✓
<b>TOTAL</b>	<i>4</i>			<i>1</i>
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: 				
<b>Distribution:</b> Original             Yellow             Pink             Goldenrod File with Committee Report             Clerk's Office             Drafting Agency             Committee File Copy				

\*Only one measure per Record of Votes