
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A TASK FORCE ON ASIA-PACIFIC
EDUCATION TO ENSURE THAT HAWAII'S PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS
MEET HIGH PERFORMANCE STANDARDS IN EDUCATION ABOUT ASIA AND
THE PACIFIC AND UNDERSTAND THE IMPACT OF THE STATE'S
RELATIONSHIP WITH THE REGION.

1 WHEREAS, as an island state located in close proximity to
2 Asia and the Pacific islands, Hawaii is closely linked to the
3 region and shares military, diplomatic, security, business,
4 social, educational, and cultural interests that make Hawaii
5 ideally situated to serve as the crossroads of the Asia-Pacific
6 region; and
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8 WHEREAS, Hawaii's trade with the Asia-Pacific region
9 accounts for more than eighty-five per cent of its total export
10 worldwide, and the continued growth of Hawaii's economy will
11 depend on, in large part, increased exports from Hawaii to the
12 region, continued Asian investments in Hawaii, and enhanced
13 Asia-Pacific tourism to Hawaii; and
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15 WHEREAS, to maintain an Asia-Pacific leadership position in
16 the region requires Hawaii to maintain a strong base of
17 expertise on Asia and the Pacific islands, including linguistic
18 skills; and
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20 WHEREAS, to maintain Hawaii's competitive edge over other
21 states in the United States, vis-à-vis the Asia-Pacific region,
22 Hawaii residents must have the knowledge and skills to take
23 advantage of the opportunities presented in the region; and
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25 WHEREAS, research indicates that the United States as a
26 whole fails to graduate enough students with expertise in Asian
27 or Pacific languages, cultures, and policies to fill the current
28 demands of business, government, and education; and
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1 WHEREAS, according to a June 2001 report by the National
2 Commission on Asia in the Schools, led by then-Governors James
3 B. Hunt, Jr., of North Carolina and John Engler of Michigan, a
4 vast majority of American adults believe that Asia-related
5 education is vital for American students and seven in ten
6 students agree that learning about Asia will prepare them for
7 life and work in the twenty-first century; and
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9 WHEREAS, in the report, although both American adults and
10 students identified teachers and schools as their principal
11 sources of information about the Asia-Pacific region, the
12 Commission found that less than five per cent of our teachers
13 have adequate background to teach about the region effectively;
14 and
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16 WHEREAS, research also indicates that Asia-Pacific-related
17 education is lacking in Hawaii's public schools; and
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19 WHEREAS, Hawaii should take maximum advantage of its
20 geographic proximity, as well as its historical and cultural
21 connections, to the Asia-Pacific region to include Asia and
22 Pacific-related education as an integral part of Hawaii public
23 school students' studies at all grade levels; and
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25 WHEREAS, during the past fourteen years, the East-West
26 Center's Consortium for Teaching Asia and the Pacific in the
27 Schools (now renamed AsiaPacificEd Program for Schools) has
28 worked in close cooperation with the state Department of
29 Education to provide professional development support on the
30 Asia-Pacific region to more than nine thousand K-12 educators
31 throughout the State; and
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33 WHEREAS, furthermore, in the report by the Blue Ribbon
34 Commission, the Consortium received national recognition as one
35 of fourteen "best practice" models nationwide to promote
36 teaching and learning about Asia and the Pacific in K-12
37 schools; and
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39 WHEREAS, establishing effective Asia-Pacific-related
40 education for Hawaii's students will ensure that Hawaii
41 residents have the knowledge and skills to prepare them for
42 success in our increasingly interconnected world in which the
43 Asia-Pacific region plays a significant role; and
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1 WHEREAS, Asia-Pacific-related knowledge and expertise are
2 also valuable in promoting international security as well as
3 furthering a mutual understanding and cooperation between the
4 United States and the Asia-Pacific region; now, therefore,
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6 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
7 Twenty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
8 of 2006, the Senate concurring, that the Legislature and the
9 Governor are requested to establish a task force on Asia-
10 Pacific-related education to ensure that Hawaii students meet
11 high performance standards in education about Asia and the
12 Pacific and understand the impact of the State's relationship
13 with the region; and
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15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Speaker of the House of
16 Representatives and the President of the Senate are requested to
17 each appoint one member from their respective chambers to
18 coordinate the task force on Asia-Pacific education; and
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20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Governor is requested to
21 appoint one task force member from each of the following
22 organizations:
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- 24 (1) East-West Center;
- 25
- 26 (2) University of Hawaii; and
- 27
- 28 (3) Department of Education; and
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30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to:

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- 32 (1) Examine current efforts underway to track Hawaii's
33 students about Asia and the Pacific region;
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- 35 (2) Identify the resources available to the State that
36 could strengthen efforts to educate public school
37 students about Asia and the Pacific region; and
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- 39 (3) Plan how these resources can be used to further such
40 education; and
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42 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to
43 develop a strategic plan for:
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- 1 (1) Aligning Asia-Pacific education in the public schools
- 2 with content and performance standards;
- 3
- 4 (2) Encouraging all schools in Hawaii to incorporate
- 5 studies of Asia and the Pacific as a regular and
- 6 integral part of their core curriculum; and
- 7
- 8 (3) Establishing criteria for monitoring progress of this
- 9 strategic plan; and
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11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is
12 requested to provide administrative staff support to the task
13 force; and
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15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to
16 report its findings and recommendations, including its strategic
17 plan and any necessary proposed legislation, to the Legislature
18 not later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular
19 Session of 2007; and
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21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
22 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, the
23 President of the East-West Center, the President of the
24 University of Hawaii, the Superintendent of Education, the
25 Chairperson of the Board of Education, the President of the
26 Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.
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OFFERED BY:

Helene H. Hale

MAR 13 2006

