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# HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE FORMATION OF A LONG-RANGE PLAN TO ADDRESS THE  
FUTURE OF PUBLIC AND SCHOOL LIBRARIES.

1           WHEREAS, public and school libraries are combined library  
2 facilities where students must share library facilities with the  
3 general public; and

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5           WHEREAS, there are twelve public and school libraries in  
6 the State that are located on school campuses, including:  
7 Kea'au Public and School Library, Laupahoehoe Public and School  
8 Library, Mountain View Public and School Library, Pahala Public  
9 and School Library, Pahoia Public and School Library, and  
10 Waimea's Thelma Parker Memorial Public and School Library on the  
11 island of Hawaii; Hana Public and School Library on the island  
12 of Maui; Lana'i Public and School Library on the island of  
13 Lana'i; Ewa Beach Public and School Library, Kahuku Public and  
14 School Library, and Waimanalo Public and School Library on the  
15 island of Oahu; and Koloa Public and School Library on the  
16 island of Kaua'i; and

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18           WHEREAS, most public and school libraries are located in  
19 rural areas where limited facilities exist and public  
20 transportation is insufficient to provide ease of access; and

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22           WHEREAS, there is already a great need to improve and  
23 update our existing libraries, especially those in rural areas,  
24 because of inadequate facilities, growing populations, and  
25 handicapped accessibility requirements; and

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27           WHEREAS, access to libraries is important to our children,  
28 their parents, the general public, and the schools in  
29 encouraging learning, maintaining literacy, furthering  
30 education, providing opportunities for research and analysis,  
31 and serving recreational purposes; and

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1 WHEREAS, access to available resources such as reference  
2 materials, the Internet, and audio and visual materials is  
3 essential to the general public in obtaining information,  
4 especially in underserved communities, which are often in rural  
5 districts; and

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7 WHEREAS, on January 8, 2002, President George W. Bush  
8 signed into law the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, placing an  
9 enhanced emphasis on reading for elementary school students,  
10 including establishing educational achievement standards for  
11 reading; and

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13 WHEREAS, the No Child Left Behind Act places an increased  
14 demand on libraries by encouraging reading, especially at the  
15 family level; and

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17 WHEREAS, many issues of concern have been raised regarding  
18 the use of school libraries by the general public, including:

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- 20 (1) Liability and safety concerns over the general public
- 21 entering school campuses to access the library;
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- 23 (2) Schools' ability to monitor who is on the campus; and
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- 25 (3) Distractions from the learning environment and
- 26 limitations on the available resources for students;
- 27 and
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29 WHEREAS, the Board of Education, the Department of  
30 Education, and the Hawaii State Public Library System recently  
31 agreed that combined public and school libraries should be  
32 separated, with general public library services being provided  
33 in locations other than school campuses; now, therefore,

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35 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
36 Twenty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
37 of 2006, the Senate concurring, that the Board of Education, the  
38 Department of Education, and the Hawaii State Public Library  
39 System are requested to develop a strategic plan to separate  
40 public and school libraries in a timely manner that will  
41 ultimately enhance levels of service for the community and for  
42 students; and  
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education, the  
2 Department of Education, and the Hawaii State Public Library  
3 System are requested to include in the plan:

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- 5 (1) A timetable for implementation of improvements,
- 6 including the criteria utilized to determine the order
- 7 in which the public and school libraries will be
- 8 addressed;
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- 10 (2) New methods or technologies to provide enhanced
- 11 library services, including prospective management and
- 12 staffing scenarios; and
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- 14 (3) An estimate of projected expenses, including capital
- 15 improvements and operational and maintenance costs;
- 16 and
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18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education is  
19 requested to ensure that the strategic plan address how the  
20 levels of service for the current library system will be  
21 maintained as the process of separation is implemented; and  
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23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education, the  
24 Department of Education, and the Hawaii State Public Library  
25 System are requested to submit the strategic plan to the  
26 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of  
27 the Regular Session of 2007; and  
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29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
30 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, the  
31 Chairperson of the Board of Education, the Superintendent of  
32 Education, and the State Librarian.  
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OFFERED BY: Heleene Hale

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