
HOUSE RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO COORDINATE EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATIONS TO ALL STUDENTS ENTERING THE NINTH GRADE ON THE ECONOMIC, ENVIRONMENTAL, CRIMINAL, AND SOCIAL COSTS OF GRAFFITI.

1 WHEREAS, many young students may be unaware of the negative
2 consequences of random acts of graffiti on public and private
3 property; and
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5 WHEREAS, graffiti is a form of vandalism that is punishable
6 by law; it is also a visual blight on schools, bus stops,
7 freeway walls, road signs, buildings, and other public and
8 private property statewide; and
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10 WHEREAS, there has been an increase of graffiti on Oahu,
11 despite efforts to eradicate it by residents, student and
12 community groups, and neighborhoods throughout the island; and
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14 WHEREAS, the Department of Transportation estimates that it
15 spends approximately \$25,000 to paint over one hundred fifty
16 thousand square feet of graffiti each year; and
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18 WHEREAS, the dyes used in the paints, spray paints, and
19 markers used in defacing property is an environmental pollutant,
20 especially when the chemical products end up mixed into runoff
21 water that finds its way into drains and waterways, thus
22 creating a health hazard for Hawaii's people; and
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24 WHEREAS, county governments are allowed to impose civil
25 fines of up to \$1,000 or an amount equal to the actual cost of
26 having the damaged county property repaired or replaced; and
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28 WHEREAS, the courts may order the parents or legal
29 guardians of a minor child who caused graffiti damage to be
30 liable for the real or personal property damage caused by the
31 child; and
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1 WHEREAS, the courts may also order the minor, the parents,
2 or the legal guardians to pay the actual cost of repairing or
3 replacing the damaged property and may order the minor to
4 perform community service; and

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6 WHEREAS, pursuant to Act 187, Session Laws of Hawaii 2005,
7 those convicted of graffiti vandalism for the third time in five
8 years may be convicted of a misdemeanor and face possible jail
9 time and a \$2,000 fine; now, therefore,

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11 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
12 Twenty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
13 of 2006, that this body strongly urges the Department of
14 Education to coordinate educational presentations to all
15 students entering the ninth grade on the economic,
16 environmental, criminal, and social costs of graffiti; and

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18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education,
19 working with the Honolulu Police Department, environmental
20 groups, community agencies, student organizations, and others
21 who have undertaken efforts to eradicate graffiti, is requested
22 to develop a graffiti awareness program that includes
23 presentations from relevant groups and agencies on the negative
24 consequences of committing a single act of graffiti; and;

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26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
27 Resolution be transmitted to the Superintendent of Education,
28 the Chairperson of the Board of Education, and the chief of
29 police of each county.
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