
HOUSE 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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30 WHEREAS, according to a June 2001 report by the National
31 Commission on Asia in the Schools, led by then-Governors James
32 B. Hunt, Jr., of North Carolina and John Engler of Michigan, a



1 vast majority of American adults believe that Asia-related
2 education is vital for American students and seven in ten
3 students agree that learning about Asia will prepare them for
4 life and work in the twenty-first century; and

5
6 WHEREAS, in the report, although both American adults and
7 students identified teachers and schools as their principal
8 sources of information about the Asia-Pacific region, the
9 Commission found that less than five per cent of our teachers
10 have adequate background to teach about the region effectively;
11 and

12
13 WHEREAS, research also indicates that Asia-Pacific-related
14 education is lacking in Hawaii's public schools; and

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16 WHEREAS, Hawaii should take maximum advantage of its
17 geographic proximity, as well as its historical and cultural
18 connections, to the Asia-Pacific region to include Asia and
19 Pacific-related education as an integral part of Hawaii public
20 school students' studies at all grade levels; and

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22 WHEREAS, during the past fourteen years, the East-West
23 Center's Consortium for Teaching Asia and the Pacific in the
24 Schools (now renamed AsiaPacificEd Program for Schools) has
25 worked in close cooperation with the state Department of
26 Education to provide professional development support on the
27 Asia-Pacific region to more than nine thousand K-12 educators
28 throughout the State; and

29
30 WHEREAS, furthermore, in the report by the Blue Ribbon
31 Commission, the Consortium received national recognition as one
32 of fourteen "best practice" models nationwide to promote
33 teaching and learning about Asia and the Pacific in K-12
34 schools; and

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36 WHEREAS, establishing effective Asia-Pacific-related
37 education for Hawaii's students will ensure that Hawaii
38 residents have the knowledge and skills to prepare them for
39 success in our increasingly interconnected world in which the
40 Asia-Pacific region plays a significant role; and

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42 WHEREAS, Asia-Pacific-related knowledge and expertise are
43 also valuable in promoting international security as well as



1 furthering a mutual understanding and cooperation between the
2 United States and the Asia-Pacific region; now, therefore,
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4 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
5 Twenty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
6 of 2006, that this body and the Governor are requested to
7 establish a task force on Asia-Pacific-related education to
8 ensure that Hawaii students meet high performance standards in
9 education about Asia and the Pacific and understand the impact
10 of the State's relationship with the region; and
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12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Speaker of the House of
13 Representatives and the President of the Senate are requested to
14 each appoint one member from their respective chambers to
15 coordinate the task force on Asia-Pacific education; and
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17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Governor is requested to
18 appoint one task force member from each of the following
19 organizations:
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- 21 (1) East-West Center;
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- 23 (2) University of Hawaii; and
- 24
- 25 (3) Department of Education; and
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27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to:
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- 29 (1) Examine current efforts underway to track Hawaii's
30 students about Asia and the Pacific region;
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- 32 (2) Identify the resources available to the State that
33 could strengthen efforts to educate public school
34 students about Asia and the Pacific region; and
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- 36 (3) Plan how these resources can be used to further such
37 education; and
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39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to
40 develop a strategic plan for:
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- 42 (1) Aligning Asia-Pacific education in the public schools
43 with content and performance standards;
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- 1 (2) Encouraging all schools in Hawaii to incorporate
- 2 studies of Asia and the Pacific as a regular and
- 3 integral part of their core curriculum; and
- 4
- 5 (3) Establishing criteria for monitoring progress of this
- 6 strategic plan; and
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8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is

9 requested to provide administrative staff support to the task

10 force; and

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12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to

13 report its findings and recommendations, including its strategic

14 plan and any necessary proposed legislation, to the Legislature

15 not later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular

16 Session of 2007; and

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18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this

19 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, the President of the

20 East-West Center, the President of the University of Hawaii, the

21 Superintendent of Education, the Chairperson of the Board of

22 Education, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the

23 House of Representatives.

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OFFERED BY: *Keene H. H. H.*

MAR 13 2006

