

MAR 15 2006

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, UNITED STATES
CONGRESS, AND UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO
SUPPORT THE GOALS OF THE NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND ACT (NCLB) BY
INCREASING FUNDS FOR FEDERAL EDUCATION INITIATIVES AND
AFFORDING MORE FLEXIBILITY TO STATES IN RELATION TO NCLB.

1 WHEREAS, all children, regardless of race, income,
2 ethnicity, or disability, deserve a quality public education;
3 and
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5 WHEREAS, the nation's states are charged with the
6 constitutional responsibility of providing public schools that
7 help all children achieve their full potential; and
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9 WHEREAS, states have a strong history of innovation,
10 leading education reforms, and responding to the unique needs of
11 their schools and communities; and
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13 WHEREAS, states have long supported the worthy goals of the
14 federal No Child Left Behind Act to improve academic
15 achievement, provide quality teachers, and increase
16 accountability at all levels; and
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18 WHEREAS, while a stated goal of NCLB is to provide
19 flexibility for states to improve academic achievement and close
20 achievement gaps, the Task Force on NCLB found that little
21 flexibility has been granted to states to implement NCLB; and
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23 WHEREAS, the best way for the federal government to make
24 education a national priority is to support states in their
25 continuing efforts to raise student achievement by investing in
26 the core building blocks of educational improvement, including:
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28 (1) A quality classroom environment that provides students
29 with quality teachers, smaller classes, up-to-date
30 books and materials, and tools for technology;



- 1 (2) Opportunities for increased parent and community
- 2 involvement that recognize the crucial role that
- 3 parents and the community play in student success;
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- 5 (3) Standards that support, not undermine, state and local
- 6 education reform efforts that set high expectations,
- 7 demonstrate clear results, and establish comprehensive
- 8 and rigorous curricula;
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- 10 (4) Accurate measures of student achievement that provide
- 11 schools with a better gauge of student performance by
- 12 relying on a broader range of measures, including
- 13 graduation, attendance and dropout rates, classroom
- 14 grades, and student progress, in addition to test
- 15 scores; and
- 16
- 17 (5) Improved measures of accountability that focus on
- 18 results rather than the process, provide support and
- 19 incentives rather than mandates and punishments, and
- 20 direct sufficient resources to the students and
- 21 schools most in need;

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23 now, therefore,

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25 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-third
26 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2006, the
27 House of Representatives concurring, that the President of the
28 United States and the United States Congress are urged to
29 fulfill their commitment to improving the quality of the
30 nation's public schools by substantially increasing funding for
31 NCLB, the Higher Education Act, the Individuals with
32 Disabilities Education Act, and other education-related
33 programs; and

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35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State of Hawaii
36 respectfully requests that the President of the United States,
37 United States Congress, and United States Department of
38 Education provide waivers, exemptions, or other flexibility to
39 help the states with the requirements of NCLB for any year that
40 federal funding for public elementary and secondary education is
41 reduced; and

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43 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State of Hawaii encourages
44 other states to pass similar resolutions; and



1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
2 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of the
3 United States, President of the United States Senate, Speaker of
4 the United States House of Representatives, Secretary of the
5 United States Department of Education, and members of Hawaii's
6 Congressional delegation.

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OFFERED BY: Norman Sakomiz

