

MAR 15 2006

---

# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO ALLOW GIFTED AND  
TALENTED STUDENTS TO TAKE ONLINE CLASSES FROM ACCREDITED  
UNIVERSITIES FOR CREDIT TOWARD DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
REQUIREMENTS.

1           WHEREAS, Hawaii's gifted and talented students are children  
2 of great natural ability who have both special gifts and special  
3 needs; and

4  
5           WHEREAS, gifted and talented students are characterized by  
6 outstanding abilities that make them capable of high  
7 performance, but these students are at risk of being bored and  
8 unchallenged in school; and

9  
10           WHEREAS, the Department of Education website has a page of  
11 information on the identification, behavioral characteristics,  
12 and differentiation of gifted and talented students; and

13  
14           WHEREAS, the Department of Education webpage describes  
15 experiences that gifted and talented students should have, and  
16 program standards for providing those experiences; and

17  
18           WHEREAS, achievement of a significant school experience for  
19 the gifted student is difficult to measure adequately by current  
20 tests; and

21  
22           WHEREAS, Hawaii's definition of giftedness states that  
23 gifted students are those who require services beyond those  
24 offered in the regular school program; and

25  
26           WHEREAS, meaningful education for the gifted student  
27 requires that personal and administrative barriers must be  
28 overcome; and

29  
30           WHEREAS, distance education is a means by which gifted and  
31 talented students in other jurisdictions may take challenging  
32 academic courses, working from their homes or schools while



1 interacting online with an instructor and other students in a  
2 Web-based discussion system; and  
3

4 WHEREAS, gifted and talented students engaged in online  
5 distance education obtain credit from their own schools for  
6 successful completion of courses offered by an accredited  
7 university; and  
8

9 WHEREAS, an example of an accredited provider of online  
10 distance education courses is the Center for Talented Youth at  
11 Johns Hopkins University; and  
12

13 WHEREAS, conspicuously absent from the Department of  
14 Education's webpage on gifted and talented students is  
15 information concerning distance education; and  
16

17 WHEREAS, the Department of Education appears to make no use  
18 of available online resources for distance education to enrich  
19 the curriculum available to Hawaii's gifted and talented  
20 students; now, therefore,  
21

22 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-third  
23 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2006, the  
24 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of  
25 Education is requested to allow gifted and talented students to  
26 take demanding and engaging online distance education courses  
27 from an accredited university to supplement their classroom  
28 learning; and  
29

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is  
31 requested to develop a system for granting credit or placement  
32 toward the high school diploma of gifted and talented students  
33 who successfully complete approved online distance education  
34 courses as part of their curriculum of study; and  
35

36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is  
37 requested to report to the Legislature its progress in complying  
38 with this Concurrent Resolution at least twenty days before the  
39 convening of the Regular Session of 2007; and  
40



1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
2 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Superintendent of  
3 Education and the Chairperson of the Board of Education.  
4  
5  
6  
7

OFFERED BY: Norman Sakomfu  
Gay L. Horn  
Clarence K. Deshler  
A. S. L.  
Erzanne Chun Caldwell  
Randy de Bah  
Bernice Kohb  
M. H. L.  
Imani K. Thomas