

MAR 15 2006

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# SENATE 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  
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- 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;

22  
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,  
27 that the President of the United States and the United States  
28 Congress are urged to fulfill their commitment to improving the  
29 quality of the nation's public schools by substantially  
30 increasing funding for NCLB, the Higher Education Act, the  
31 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, and other  
32 education-related programs; and  
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34           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State of Hawaii  
35 respectfully requests that the President of the United States,  
36 United States Congress, and United States Department of  
37 Education provide waivers, exemptions, or other flexibility to  
38 help the states with the requirements of NCLB for any year that  
39 federal funding for public elementary and secondary education is  
40 reduced; and  
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42           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State of Hawaii encourages  
43 other states to pass similar resolutions; and



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

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OFFERED BY: Norman Sabum

