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## SENATE RESOLUTION

ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE TO DEVELOP AN INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGE  
IMMERSION MAGNET SCHOOL ON OAHU.

1 WHEREAS, the Legislature finds that 18,000 students, or  
2 approximately ten percent of the public student population, is  
3 identified as "English as Second Language" learners; and  
4

5 WHEREAS, the self-reported ethnicity of Hawaii's public  
6 school students in the 2005-2006 school year included over  
7 twenty-six percent of students identified as part or full  
8 Hawaiian, over twenty percent identified as Filipino, almost ten  
9 percent identified as Japanese, more than three percent each  
10 identified as Samoan and Chinese, and almost three percent  
11 identified as Hispanic; and  
12

13 WHEREAS, hundreds of language immersion and two-way  
14 bi-lingual programs exist across the country; and  
15

16 WHEREAS, Hawaii's own demographics place it in a unique  
17 position among the other states to create effective language  
18 immersion and two-way bilingual public school programs; and  
19

20 WHEREAS, public Hawaiian language immersion schools have  
21 been enjoying extraordinary success and popularity among parents  
22 and students, resulting in an exponential student population  
23 growth; and  
24

25 WHEREAS, a magnet language school as a new education  
26 alternative that incorporates Pacific Rim languages into  
27 immersion and two-way bilingual programs would capitalize on our  
28 State's wealth of resident cultures and languages, and bring  
29 academics in our public schools to new heights; and  
30

31 WHEREAS, immersion and two-way bilingual education programs  
32 would offer Hawaii's children a more competitive advantage in  
33 our increasingly global economy; now, therefore  
34

35 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-third  
36 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2006,



1 that the establishment of a magnet immersion and two-way  
2 bilingual public school would be a worthwhile and valuable  
3 endeavor; and

4  
5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is  
6 requested to establish a magnet language immersion school task  
7 force to plan, develop, and realize a magnet immersion and two-  
8 way bilingual public school in Hawaii that incorporates  
9 languages which could include Mandarin, Japanese, Tagalog,  
10 Korean, French, and Spanish; and

11  
12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall be  
13 comprised of the following members:

- 14  
15 (1) Superintendent of Education, or the Superintendent's  
16 designee;  
17  
18 (2) The Chair of the Board of Education, or the Chair's  
19 designee;  
20  
21 (3) The President of the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board,  
22 or the President's designee;  
23  
24 (4) The President of the Hawaii State Teachers  
25 Association, or the President's designee;  
26  
27 (5) A member of the Department of Education Strategic Plan  
28 Steering Committee;  
29  
30 (6) A member of the Hawaii business community to be  
31 appointed by the Governor;  
32  
33 (7) Two members of the Hawaii ethnic cultural community  
34 with an emphasis on international education to be  
35 appointed by the Governor;  
36  
37 (8) Two members of nonprofit educational agencies with an  
38 emphasis on international education; and  
39  
40 (9) Two existing or prospective language immersion or  
41 bi-lingual education teachers; and  
42



1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall designate  
2 its own chairperson, who shall have the primary responsibility  
3 in carrying out the purposes of this resolution; and

4  
5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall:

- 6  
7 (1) Gather all current and necessary research on Hawaii  
8 demographics and educational models relevant to the  
9 creation of a magnet language school that would  
10 service Hawaii's communities effectively;  
11  
12 (2) Meet once a month to draft a short-term magnet  
13 immersion and two-way bilingual school development  
14 plan to commence in one year to eighteen months;  
15  
16 (3) Identify target Pacific Rim languages and cultures to  
17 be implemented into magnet school programs;  
18  
19 (4) Identify methods to grow the program and establish  
20 long-range development goals;  
21  
22 (5) Designate a curriculum model for developing fluent  
23 bilingual education and literacy skills in each target  
24 language;  
25  
26 (6) Collaborate with the Department of Education, existing  
27 Department immersion and two-way bilingual programs,  
28 community education and business organizations, and  
29 other international education stakeholders; and  
30  
31 (7) Conduct any other business deemed necessary to carry  
32 out the purpose of this Resolution; and  
33

34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall provide  
35 the Legislature with a report, including proposed legislation,  
36 at least twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular  
37 Session of 2007; and  
38

39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
40 Resolution be transmitted to the Superintendent of Education,  
41 the Chair of the Board of Education, the Office of the Governor,  
42 the President of the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board, the  
43 President of the Hawaii State Teachers Association, and the



1 Chair of the Department of Education Strategic Plan Steering  
2 Committee.

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OFFERED BY: Inzanne Chris Oakland

Quin L C.  
Norman Sakomby

