
SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION INVESTIGATE THE
FEASIBILITY OF EBOOKS AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO TRADITIONAL
TEXTBOOKS AND REPORT ITS FINDINGS TO THE LEGISLATURE.

1 WHEREAS, textbook shortages continue to be an issue for
2 many Hawaii schools; and
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4 WHEREAS, the average weight of a backpack in middle school
5 can be as much as twenty pounds, and that some doctors recommend
6 that individuals never carry more than ten percent of their body
7 weight to avoid injury; and
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9 WHEREAS, some schools do not have enough textbooks to allow
10 students to bring them home to study; and
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12 WHEREAS, textbooks typically cost between \$60 and \$90 each,
13 and even when there are enough books for each student in a
14 class, they can sometimes be too valuable to be allowed to leave
15 the classroom; and
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17 WHEREAS, an insufficient number of textbooks in a classroom
18 can cripple the teacher's ability to teach and the student's
19 ability to learn; and
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21 WHEREAS, maintaining updated textbooks for every public
22 school student in the State would cost tens of millions of
23 dollars; and
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25 WHEREAS, even when textbooks are relatively current, they
26 cannot provide a complete curriculum, and teachers must
27 supplement their lesson plans with handouts on the latest
28 research; and
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30 WHEREAS, the academic landscape has expanded to include a
31 range of resources that were technologically impossible a few
32 years ago, and the traditional textbook may no longer be
33 considered as central to a curriculum as it once was; and



1 WHEREAS, eBooks are text documents that have been converted
2 and "published" in a digital format that display on specialized
3 reading devices or computers; and

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5 WHEREAS, eBooks can be stored and read on laptops, pocket
6 computers, and eBook reading devices for access at any time, and
7 a gigabyte of computer chip storage space can contain 200
8 illustrated reference books, 350 legal volumes, or about 2,500
9 600-page novels; and

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11 WHEREAS, eBooks can present text in a more user-friendly
12 style than traditional books, and can allow users to adjust text
13 size, bookmark a page, take notes within a book, highlight
14 portions of the text, add drawings, look up definitions, search
15 within the text, copy and paste selected text to other programs,
16 and can be electronically read aloud; and

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18 WHEREAS, eBooks can be considered stronger, dynamic,
19 interactive versions of traditional textbooks that use computer
20 programs that can respond in real time to a student's work with
21 personalized feedback, thereby tailoring and improving the
22 learning experience to meet the individual needs of the student;
23 and

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25 WHEREAS, these online textbooks can provide on-demand
26 suggestions, guided solutions, quizzes, and multiple problem
27 examples and explanations; and

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29 WHEREAS, eBooks allow students to learn at their own pace,
30 without the time pressure or fear of answering incorrectly in
31 front of their peers, which can be present in a group learning
32 situation; and

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34 WHEREAS, eBooks permit teachers to work more effectively
35 with a range of students, allowing faster learners to forge
36 ahead while giving other students more time to grasp certain
37 concepts; and

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39 WHEREAS, eBook software could be updated more often and at
40 lower cost to schools over time; and

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42 WHEREAS, there are many online libraries and organizations
43 that make available a large number of eBooks for little or no
44 cost; and



1 WHEREAS, there are many practical advantages of eBook
2 technology in a mobile society from which our students could
3 benefit; now, therefore,

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5 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-third
6 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2006,
7 that the Department of Education is requested to conduct an
8 investigation into the feasibility of eBook implementation in
9 the public school system; and

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11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is
12 requested to report its findings to the legislature no later
13 than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session
14 of 2007; and

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16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
17 Resolution be transmitted to Superintendent of Education and the
18 Chair of the Board of Education.

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OFFERED BY: Anna Mercedes Kii
Norman Sakami
Gay L. Hood