
SENATE 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

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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

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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

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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

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

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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

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

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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
33 interacting online with an instructor and other students in a
34 Web-based discussion system; and



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

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

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


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

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

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

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

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 38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 39 Resolution be transmitted to the Superintendent of Education and
 40 the Chairperson of the Board of Education.

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 43 OFFERED BY: Norman Satomah
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