

MAR 15 2006

SENATE RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND BOARD OF EDUCATION TO
HELP PARENTS UNDERSTAND THE RESPONSIBILITIES AND
LIABILITIES OF PARENT-TEACHER ASSOCIATIONS AND PARENT-
TEACHER GROUPS.

1 WHEREAS, Parent-Teacher Associations (PTA) and Parent-
2 Teacher Groups (PTG) enrich the learning environment by being
3 involved in and contributing to the education of the students,
4 but not without responsibilities and potential liabilities; and
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6 WHEREAS, while they are not-for-profit organizations, PTAs
7 and PTGs are legal business entities that are accountable for
8 their actions, in general, like any other legal business entity;
9 and
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11 WHEREAS, in cases where PTA or PTG moneys, such as proceeds
12 from a PTA or PTG fundraiser, are mishandled, the individual who
13 mishandled the money may be liable to the rest of the PTA or PTG
14 for the lost amount, but other PTA or PTG members would not
15 necessarily be personally responsible to anyone because the lost
16 money was originally the PTA's or PTG's; and
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18 WHEREAS, to protect themselves from these kinds of
19 situations, PTAs and PTGs may wish to obtain bonds; and
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21 WHEREAS, the national PTA organization offers insurance
22 plans that, among other things, provide bonds to cover
23 embezzlement, robbery, and theft by any person in the individual
24 PTA organization who is entrusted with money, including
25 officers, directors, and volunteers; and
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27 WHEREAS, independent insurance carriers carry the same type
28 of insurance for PTGs; and
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30 WHEREAS, these insurance plans may also cover PTA and PTG
31 liability for injuries occurring at PTA or PTG functions; and
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33 WHEREAS, although PTA and PTG members must pay for the
34 insurance premiums because the State does not provide state



1 funds for this purpose, insurance coverage would protect the
2 assets of the PTA or PTG, and the personal assets of their
3 members; and

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5 WHEREAS, parents should be made aware of their
6 responsibilities and liabilities as members of PTAs or PTGs,
7 including the kinds of protection that can be afforded them;
8 now, therefore,

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10 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-third
11 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2006,
12 that the Department of Education and Board of Education are
13 urged to help parents understand the responsibilities and
14 liabilities of Parent-Teacher Associations and Parent-Teacher
15 Groups, including:

- 16 (1) Providing informational pamphlets; and
- 17 (2) Explaining how obtaining bonds or insurance can help
- 18 protect the assets of a PTA or PTG, and the personal
- 19 assets of the members;
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- 21
- 22

23 and

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25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
26 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of
27 Education, the Superintendent of Education, the President of the
28 Hawaii State Parent Teacher Student Association, and the Parent-
29 Teacher Associations, Parent-Teacher Groups, or Parent Teacher
30 Student Associations at each public school in Hawaii.

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