

---

## HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

---

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO REPORT ON THE SHORT- AND LONG-TERM COSTS OF NOT CONDUCTING THE SYSTEMATIC HEARING AND VISION PROGRAM, AND REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO DEVELOP AN ACTION PLAN TO DISSEMINATE INFORMATION TO PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES ON ACCESS TO COMPREHENSIVE VISION AND HEARING EXAMINATIONS.

1 WHEREAS, many visual skills are necessary for successful  
2 learning in the modern classroom and skill deficiencies in this  
3 area may contribute to poor academic performance; and  
4

5 WHEREAS, the relationship between poorly developed visual  
6 skills and poor academic performance is not widely understood  
7 among students, parents, teachers, administrators, and public  
8 health officials; and  
9

10 WHEREAS, typical vision evaluations and screenings only  
11 test for a few of the necessary learning-related visual skills  
12 such as distance acuity (i.e., 20/20 eyesight, stereo vision,  
13 and muscle balance), which leaves most visual skill deficiencies  
14 undiagnosed; and  
15

16 WHEREAS, children with mild hearing impairment to profound  
17 hearing loss, as well as young students with central auditory  
18 processing deficiencies, often experience extreme learning  
19 difficulty in their educational environment; and  
20

21 WHEREAS, early identification of hearing impairment or  
22 hearing loss has been shown to increase access to the spoken  
23 language and has allowed more children to enter the mainstream  
24 of education; and  
25

26 WHEREAS, forty per cent of children with hearing loss have  
27 additional disorders such as impaired cognition, learning



1 disabilities, and sensory integration dysfunction -- behaviors  
2 that are frequently overlooked by parents, educators,  
3 physicians, and speech-language pathologists; and  
4

5 WHEREAS, the Department of Education does not require  
6 vision or hearing examinations for students entering the public  
7 school system; and  
8

9 WHEREAS, with the demands of the No Child Left Behind Act,  
10 a heavy burden is placed on teachers and administrators to  
11 effectively educate students with undiagnosed vision and hearing  
12 deficits; and  
13

14 WHEREAS, section 321-101, Hawaii Revised Statutes,  
15 establishes a systematic hearing and vision program conducted by  
16 the Department of Health to detect and identify hearing and  
17 vision deficiencies in school children; and  
18

19 WHEREAS, the Department of Health and the Department of  
20 Education are authorized, as part of the systematic hearing and  
21 vision program, to conduct information campaigns on vision  
22 conservation and the prevention of hearing loss and blindness;  
23 and  
24

25 WHEREAS, because funding has not been made available to the  
26 program, the Legislature is interested in the short- and long-  
27 term costs of not conducting the systematic hearing and vision  
28 program; now, therefore,  
29

30 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
31 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
32 Session of 2007, the Senate concurring, that the Department of  
33 Health is requested to report to the Legislature on the short-  
34 and long-term costs of not implementing section 321-101, Hawaii  
35 Revised Statutes, which establishes a systematic hearing and  
36 vision program; and  
37

38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health and  
39 the Department of Education are requested to develop an action  
40 plan to disseminate information to public school students and  
41 their families on access to comprehensive vision and hearing  
42 examinations; and  
43



1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
 2 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, the  
 3 Director of Health, the Chairperson of the Board of Education,  
 4 and the Superintendent of Education.  
 5  
 6  
 7

OFFERED BY:

*Cindy Brown*  
*[Signature]*

*Lyla B. Berg*

*[Signature]*

*Josh Green*

*John H. Wiles*

*Della A. Belletti*

*Priscilla D. Moritz*

*Tony Wicks*

*Paul Wicks*

*Paul Wicks*

*Alan S. Sauer*

*David S. Sauer*

*[Signature]*

*[Signature]*

*[Signature]*

*[Signature]*  
 MAR 1 2 2007

