
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO
DEVELOP A DEVELOPMENT, EARLY EDUCATION, AND EDUCATION PLAN
FOR CHILDREN WITH DOWN SYNDROME.

1 WHEREAS, children with Down syndrome generally develop at a
2 slower rate and have different patterns of development than
3 typically developing children. This delay in development means
4 that children with Down syndrome will not learn to sit, stand,
5 walk, or talk as early as other children. It also means that
6 children with Down syndrome may need more repetition and more
7 consistency than typically developing children when learning new
8 skills; and
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10 WHEREAS, the goal of intervention programs for children
11 with Down syndrome is to maximize each child's developmental
12 potential and improve long-term functional outcomes for the
13 children and their families; and
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15 WHEREAS, early intervention services provide
16 developmentally appropriate activities to maximize a child's
17 cognitive, communication, motor, self-help, and social-emotional
18 growth until the child is ready for kindergarten; and
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20 WHEREAS, the state estimates the cost for children to
21 receive early intervention services is less than it might be for
22 a special education preschool program; and
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24 WHEREAS, it is recommended that a "total communication"
25 approach (simultaneous use of sign language and speech), and
26 visual cues be used to help children with Down syndrome develop
27 expressive language and to learn academically; and
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29 WHEREAS, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act of
30 2004 gives the state discretion to extend early intervention
31 services to children with disabilities who are eligible for



1 services under title 20 United States Code section 1419 and who
2 previously received services under title 20 United States Code
3 sections 1431-1444, until the children enter, or are eligible
4 under state law to enter, kindergarten or elementary school, as
5 appropriate; and
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7 WHEREAS, the continuation of early intervention services
8 for eligible children with down syndrome until they are eligible
9 to enter kindergarten will provide continuity of services until
10 the child is ready to transition to a special education or
11 kindergarten program; and
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13 WHEREAS, the §302A-410 Quality early education plan, of the
14 Hawaii Revised Statutes, states, "Early education shall be
15 delivered through private providers to the maximum extent
16 possible, and provision shall be made to enable parents and
17 guardians to opt for home care if they so choose by providing
18 early childhood education resources in each school for in-home
19 use"; and
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21 WHEREAS, the Early Learning Task Force, Act 259 (2006),
22 Report to the Legislature, December 2006, states a Vision: An
23 early learning system that provides quality early learning
24 experiences, parental choice, access, affordability,
25 sustainability, and a foundation for school success; and
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27 WHEREAS, a state-wide program to serve children with Down
28 syndrome, to include a resource base, site-based and virtual-
29 based, for parents and teachers, including scientifically-based
30 research and instruction, such as Montessori-based curriculum,
31 music/movement programs, and sign language, and developmentally
32 appropriate activities and instruction based on the individual
33 child's developmental stages, not based on the individual
34 child's chronological age; and
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36 WHEREAS, the Department of Education's Teleschool Branch
37 provides television programming for K-12, yet there is a
38 potential for all children who are not yet in Kindergarten,
39 their families, their service providers and educators, to
40 benefit from programming specifically for this developmental age
41 group, accessible at home, at a group childcare home, at a
42 public special education program; now, therefore,
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1 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
2 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
3 Session of 2007, the Senate concurring, that the Department of
4 Education, in cooperation with the Department of Health and the
5 University of Hawaii, is requested to develop a standard for a
6 Total Communication credential to be included in education and
7 related certificate, undergraduate and graduate programs within
8 the University of Hawaii system, and professional development
9 curriculums in order for these individuals to be able to
10 communicate with those individuals who use sign language and
11 speech simultaneously; and
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13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is
14 requested to make a Memo of Agreement with Department of Health,
15 beginning July 1, 2007, for the provision of early intervention
16 services, as that term is defined under section 321-351, Hawaii
17 Revised Statutes, under section 632 of the Individuals with
18 Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004 -- and under
19 section 300.24 of the 34 Code of Federal Regulations published
20 August 14, 2006, including sign language and other
21 scientifically-based services, to children diagnosed with Down
22 syndrome who are eligible for services under title 20 United
23 States Code section 1419, and who previously received services
24 under title 20 United States Code sections 1431-1444, until the
25 children enter, or are eligible under state law to enter,
26 kindergarten or elementary school, as appropriate; and
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28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is
29 requested to work cooperatively with the Department of Human
30 Services, the Department of Health, college level education
31 programs, early education organizations, parents of young
32 children, and other appropriate organizations, in developing a
33 quality developmental, early education and education plan for
34 children with Down syndrome; and
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36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education and
37 Department of Education are requested to immediately consider
38 classroom and office space at one of the three elementary
39 schools in Enchanted Lake, Kailua, Oahu, noted as a school with
40 lower enrollment, or in partnership with a private organization,
41 for a pilot program for children with Down syndrome while
42 developing a quality developmental, early education and
43 education plan for children with Down syndrome; and
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is
2 requested to develop an early childhood programming network,
3 such as through its Teleschool Branch, to include programming
4 geared towards providing children, including young children with
5 developmental disabilities, access to sign language instruction,
6 such as: Signing Time! Sign language instructional videos and
7 PBS television series currently shown on PBS Hawaii on Saturday
8 mornings at 10:30, and Music Rhapsody's educational videos with
9 music, musical instruments and movement; and

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11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Public Library System
12 retain materials relevant to the development, early education,
13 and education of children with Down syndrome; and

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15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education,
16 the Department of Health, and other agencies providing services
17 to young children with Down syndrome and their families,
18 requested to consider adopting the December 2005, *Clinical*
19 *Practice Guideline: Down Syndrome, Assessment and Intervention*
20 *for Young Children (Age 0 to 3 Years)*, sponsored by the New York
21 State Department of Health; and

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23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education develop
24 a policy to allow the Department of Education the flexibility to
25 place children with Down syndrome with their developmental age-
26 matched peers, and to receive sign language instruction; and

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28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education
29 with consultation of the Department of Health is requested to
30 submit a report of its findings and recommendations, including
31 any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than
32 twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of
33 2008; and

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35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
36 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to Chair of the Board of
37 Education, the Superintendent of Education, the Director of the
38 Department of Health, and the Director of the Department of
39 Human Services.



H.C.R. NO. 223

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