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## HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO ESTABLISH AT LEAST ONE CIVIC STANDARD AT EVERY GRADE LEVEL FROM K-12 THAT INTEGRATES SERVICE LEARNING AND EXPECTS STUDENTS TO ENGAGE, PARTICIPATE, AND BECOME ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN THEIR COMMUNITIES.

1 WHEREAS, democracy depends on citizens being informed,  
2 prepared, and willing and able to take on an active role in  
3 government; and  
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5 WHEREAS, civic participation requires a set of learned  
6 skills and proper attitude; and  
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8 WHEREAS, schools therefore have a public purpose and need  
9 to prepare young people with the knowledge, dispositions, and  
10 skills necessary to be competent and responsible members of our  
11 civil, democratic society throughout their lives; and  
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13 WHEREAS, civic learning refers to the attitudes and actions  
14 of citizens engaging in the affairs of the community; and  
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16 WHEREAS, in 2004, the Legislature passed Act 51, Session  
17 Laws of Hawaii 2004, which enabled the Department of Education  
18 to significantly shape our public school system; and  
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20 WHEREAS, now more than ever, schools are expected to reach  
21 out to parents, families, businesses, and organizations to  
22 create learning communities to improve students' academic  
23 achievement, safety and well-being, and responsible citizenship;  
24 and  
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26 WHEREAS, Act 51 states that "[a]lthough many  
27 responsibilities are laid upon education, ultimately, education  
28 must do no less than advance the endowment of human culture  
29 itself, so that each succeeding generation finds itself further



1 along the road toward peace, social justice, and environmental  
2 sustainability in a society guided by creativity, compassion,  
3 and curiosity"; and  
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5 WHEREAS, the Department of Education has created strands of  
6 political science and civics within social studies classes that  
7 are not yet accompanied by benchmarks, sample performance  
8 assessments, and rubrics for all grade levels; and  
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10 WHEREAS, performance assessments for each grade level  
11 should require the application and practice of concepts or the  
12 demonstration of higher level thinking skills related to civic  
13 learning but currently merely expect students to understand,  
14 describe, and explain the concepts; and  
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16 WHEREAS, taxonomy has a major effect on curriculum planning  
17 for teachers; and  
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19 WHEREAS, revising existing standards relating to civic  
20 learning, as well as creating a continuum of standards from  
21 kindergarten through grade twelve that integrates service  
22 learning and community-based education, would result in a  
23 coherent, relevant, and meaningful sequence of content, skills,  
24 and activities that build competence in civic learning; now,  
25 therefore,  
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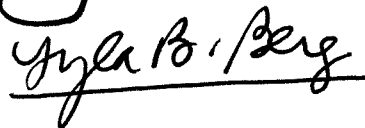
27 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
28 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
29 Session of 2007, the Senate concurring, that the Board of  
30 Education is requested to create and adopt a policy for civic  
31 learning for all K-12 grade levels; and  
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33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is  
34 requested to establish an educational strand of political  
35 science and civics for every grade level, including requisite  
36 benchmarks, performance assessments, rubrics, and examples; and  
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
2 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, the  
3 Chairperson of the Board of Education, and the Superintendent of  
4 Education.  
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OFFERED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

  
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MAR 14 2007

