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## HOUSE RESOLUTION

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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  
9

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  
23

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  
6

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  
26

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  
35

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



1 group, accessible at home, at a group childcare home, at a  
2 public special education program; now, therefore,

3  
4 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
5 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
6 Session of 2007, that the Department of Education, in  
7 cooperation with the Department of Health and the University of  
8 Hawaii, is requested to develop a standard for a Total  
9 Communication credential to be included in education and related  
10 certificate, undergraduate and graduate programs within the  
11 University of Hawaii system, and professional development  
12 curriculums in order for these individuals to be able to  
13 communicate with those individuals who use sign language and  
14 speech simultaneously; and  
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16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is  
17 requested to make a Memo of Agreement with Department of Health,  
18 beginning July 1, 2007, for the provision of early intervention  
19 services, as that term is defined under section 321-351, Hawaii  
20 Revised Statutes, under section 632 of the Individuals with  
21 Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004 -- and under  
22 section 300.24 of the 34 Code of Federal Regulations published  
23 August 14, 2006, including sign language and other  
24 scientifically-based services, to children diagnosed with Down  
25 syndrome who are eligible for services under title 20 United  
26 States Code section 1419, and who previously received services  
27 under title 20 United States Code sections 1431-1444, until the  
28 children enter, or are eligible under state law to enter,  
29 kindergarten or elementary school, as appropriate; and  
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31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is  
32 requested to work cooperatively with the Department of Human  
33 Services, the Department of Health, college level education  
34 programs, early education organizations, parents of young  
35 children, and other appropriate organizations, in developing a  
36 quality developmental, early education and education plan for  
37 children with Down syndrome; and  
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39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education and  
40 Department of Education are requested to immediately consider  
41 classroom and office space at one of the three elementary



1 schools in Enchanted Lake, Kailua, Oahu, noted as a school with  
2 lower enrollment, or in partnership with a private organization,  
3 for a pilot program for children with Down syndrome while  
4 developing a quality developmental, early education and  
5 education plan for children with Down syndrome; and  
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7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is  
8 requested to develop an early childhood programming network,  
9 such as through its Teleschool Branch, to include programming  
10 geared towards providing children, including young children with  
11 developmental disabilities, access to sign language instruction,  
12 such as: Signing Time! Sign language instructional videos and  
13 PBS television series currently shown on PBS Hawaii on Saturday  
14 mornings at 10:30, and Music Rhapsody's educational videos with  
15 music, musical instruments and movement; and  
16

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Public Library System  
18 retain materials relevant to the development, early education,  
19 and education of children with Down syndrome; and  
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21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education,  
22 the Department of Health, and other agencies providing services  
23 to young children with Down syndrome and their families,  
24 requested to consider adopting the December 2005, *Clinical*  
25 *Practice Guideline: Down Syndrome, Assessment and Intervention*  
26 *for Young Children (Age 0 to 3 Years)*, sponsored by the New York  
27 State Department of Health; and  
28

29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education develop  
30 a policy to allow the Department of Education the flexibility to  
31 place children with Down syndrome with their developmental age-  
32 matched peers, and to receive sign language instruction; and  
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34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education  
35 with consultation of the Department of Health is requested to  
36 submit a report of its findings and recommendations, including  
37 any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than  
38 twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of  
39 2008; and  
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
2 Resolution be transmitted to Chair of the Board of Education,  
3 the Superintendent of Education, the Director of the Department  
4 of Health, and the Director of the Department of Human Services.  
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OFFERED BY:

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