
HOUSE RESOLUTION

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
30 along the road toward peace, social justice, and environmental
31 sustainability in a society guided by creativity, compassion,
32 and curiosity"; and



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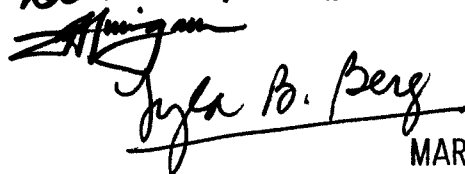
16 WHEREAS, revising existing standards relating to civic
17 learning, as well as creating a continuum of standards from
18 kindergarten through grade twelve that integrates service
19 learning and community-based education, would result in a
20 coherent, relevant, and meaningful sequence of content,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


Della C. Selatti

Jyfa B. Berg

