
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE BOARD 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

4
5 WHEREAS, civic participation requires a set of learned
6 skills and proper attitude; and

7
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

12
13 WHEREAS, civic learning refers to the attitudes and actions
14 of citizens engaging in the affairs of the community; and

15
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

19
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

25
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

1 sustainability in a society guided by creativity, compassion,
2 and curiosity"; and

3
4 WHEREAS, the Department of Education has created strands of
5 political science and civics within social studies classes that
6 are not yet accompanied by benchmarks, sample performance
7 assessments, and rubrics for all grade levels; and

8
9 WHEREAS, performance assessments for each grade level
10 should require the application and practice of concepts or the
11 demonstration of higher level thinking skills related to civic
12 learning but currently merely expect students to understand,
13 describe, and explain the concepts; and

14
15 WHEREAS, taxonomy has a major effect on curriculum planning
16 for teachers; and

17
18 WHEREAS, revising existing standards relating to civic
19 learning, as well as creating a continuum of standards from
20 kindergarten through grade twelve that integrates service
21 learning and community-based education, would result in a
22 coherent, relevant, and meaningful sequence of content, skills,
23 and activities that build competence in civic learning; now,
24 therefore,

25
26 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
27 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
28 Session of 2007, that the Board of Education is requested to
29 create and adopt a policy for civic learning for all K-12 grade
30 levels; and

31
32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education is
33 requested to establish an educational strand of political
34 science and civics for every grade level, including requisite
35 benchmarks, performance assessments, rubrics, and examples; and

36
37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
38 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, the Chairperson of
39 the Board of Education, and the Superintendent of Education.