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## HOUSE RESOLUTION

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URGING THE WESTERN ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES (WASC) TO  
INCREASE HAWAII'S MEMBERSHIP AND VOTES ON WASC TO  
STRENGTHEN THE STATE'S INPUT ON THE ACCREDITATION AND  
APPROVAL OF SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES IN THE REGION.

1 WHEREAS, the purpose of the Western Association of Schools  
2 and Colleges (WASC) is to promote the welfare, interests, and  
3 development of elementary, secondary, and higher education  
4 through:

- 5
- 6 (1) The improvement of educational programs;
- 7
- 8 (2) Closer cooperation among the schools, colleges, and  
9 universities within the region it serves;
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- 11 (3) Certification of accreditation or candidacy status;  
12 and
- 13
- 14 (4) Effective working relationships with other educational  
15 organizations and accrediting agencies;
- 16

17 and

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19 WHEREAS, WASC is composed of a nine-member board of  
20 directors and has three accrediting commissions, as follows:

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- 22 (1) The Accrediting Commission for Senior Colleges and  
23 Universities, which is composed of 18-25 members;
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- 25 (2) The Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior  
26 Colleges, which is composed of 19 members, one of whom  
27 is nominated by the President of the University of  
28 Hawaii; and



- 1 (3) The Accrediting Commission for Schools, which is  
2 composed of up to 25 members of whom:  
3  
4 (A) One is nominated by the Hawaii Government  
5 Employees' Association;  
6  
7 (B) One is nominated by the Hawaii Association of  
8 Independent Schools;  
9  
10 (C) One is a practicing classroom teacher on a  
11 rotational basis from the Hawaii, Pacific  
12 Islands, and East Asia Regional Council of  
13 Overseas Schools region; and  
14  
15 (D) One is a member of the Hawaii Department of  
16 Education and has ex-officio status on the  
17 Commission;  
18

19 and  
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21 WHEREAS, the accrediting region of WASC consists of the  
22 states of California and Hawaii, the territories of Guam,  
23 American Samoa, Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of the  
24 Marshall Islands, Republic of Palau, Commonwealth of the  
25 Northern Marianas Islands, Pacific Basin, and East Asia, and  
26 areas of the Pacific and East Asia where American/International  
27 schools or colleges may apply; and  
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29 WHEREAS, as the only two states in WASC, Hawaii and  
30 California equally contribute valuable input to the  
31 accreditation of educational institutions at all levels in the  
32 Pacific and East Asia regions; and  
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34 WHEREAS, the importance of the tasks performed by WASC  
35 should require that the two states be given equal voices, but  
36 Hawaii does not have parity with California on WASC's Board of  
37 Directors; and  
38

39 WHEREAS, although the University of Hawaii has often been  
40 referred to as a world-class research university, it has not  
41 been included on U.S. News' annual list of top 50 public



1 national universities, which has included seven University of  
2 California campuses, and this may be an indicator of unequal  
3 representation on WASC; now, therefore,  
4

5 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
6 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
7 Session of 2007, that the Western Association of Schools and  
8 Colleges is urged to increase Hawaii's membership and votes on  
9 WASC to strengthen the State's input on the accreditation and  
10 approval of schools and colleges in the region; and  
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12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
13 Resolution be transmitted to the:  
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- 15 (1) United States Secretary of Education;
- 16 (2) Governor of California;
- 17 (3) Governor of Hawaii;
- 18 (4) Superintendent of Education;
- 19 (5) President of the University of Hawaii;
- 20 (6) Executive Director of the Hawaii Association Of  
21 Independent Schools;
- 22 (7) President of the WASC-Accrediting Commission for  
23 Community and Junior Colleges;
- 24 (8) Executive Director of the WASC-Accrediting Commission  
25 for Schools;
- 26 (9) President and Executive Director of the WASC-  
27 Accrediting Commission for Senior Colleges and  
28 Universities;
- 29 (10) Executive Director of the Middle States Association of  
30 Colleges and Schools-Commission on Higher Education;
- 31 (11) Executive Director of the Middle States Commission on  
32 Secondary Schools;
- 33 (12) Director of the New England Association of Schools and  
34 Colleges (NEASC)-Commission on Institutions of Higher  
35 Education;
- 36 (13) Director of the NEASC-Commission on Technical and  
37 Career Institutions;
- 38 (14) Executive Director of the North Central Association of  
39 Colleges and Schools-The Higher Learning Commission;



- 1 (15) Executive Director of the North Central Association  
2 Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement-  
3 Board of Trustees;  
4 (16) President of the Northwest Commission on Colleges and  
5 Universities; and  
6 (17) President of the Southern Association of Colleges and  
7 Schools-Commission on Colleges.  
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OFFERED BY:

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