HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO ASSESS THE EXTENT TO WHICH SUPPLEMENTAL ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES ARE INCLUDED IN THE A PLUS AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM.

WHEREAS, quality after-school programs promote academic success and positive social relationships; and

WHEREAS, after-school programs are proven to reduce crimes against children, crimes by children, and the incidence of inappropriate behavior among children; and

WHEREAS, eligible children who attend the A Plus afterschool program include latchkey children and at-risk children who may be recommended by a school principal for enrollment; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Education defines a "latchkey child" as one with no adult present in the home to provide after-school supervision and an "at-risk child" as a student who is consistently not making satisfactory progress in school or who is in need of a safe, nurturing environment; and

WHEREAS, after-school supplemental academic activities do not supplant the academic programs within the traditional school day, yet are academically meaningful; and

WHEREAS, according to Chapter 8-400, Hawaii Administrative Rules, on the A Plus after-school program, the Department of Education is to create a program curriculum "to provide experiences for children that will excite their curiosity, encourage exploration and inquiry, spur the imagination, and invite experimentation of a wide range of topics" and that the program may have various components, including "enrichment, coordination and physical development, and character development"; and

WHEREAS, section 302A-408, Hawaii Revised Statutes, authorizes the Department of Education to "establish and regulate programs of after-school and weekend community-school

activities for children, including but not limited to childcare programs, arts and crafts, hula, ukulele, and other recreational projects, wherever feasible, at public school and public park facilities"; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2007, that the Department of Education is requested to assess, and report to the Legislature on the extent to which supplemental academic activities are included in the A Plus after-school program as provided in the Department's rules; and

 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is requested to report its findings and recommendations to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2008; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of Education and the Superintendent of Education.

OFFERED BY:

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