

---

## HOUSE RESOLUTION

---

URGING THE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO ADOPT ADMINISTRATIVE RULES TO  
ALLOW THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO GRANT SCHOOL ACADEMIC  
CREDIT TO HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WHO SERVE ON NONPROFIT  
BOARDS, ADVISORY COUNCILS, OR COMMISSIONS.

1 WHEREAS, a representative democracy depends on an informed,  
2 prepared, and willing citizenry, capable of playing an active  
3 role in government; and  
4

5 WHEREAS, participation in representative democracy can be  
6 instilled in our youth through public education; and  
7

8 WHEREAS, for decades, people have become increasingly  
9 disengaged from the civic and political institutions of our  
10 country, an attitude that results from experiences starting at a  
11 young age; and  
12

13 WHEREAS, youth participation appears to be increasing in  
14 the areas of volunteerism, community service, and religious  
15 activity, but youth awareness of social issues has decreased due  
16 to fewer opportunities for political discussions and a weaker  
17 connection between youth and the community; and  
18

19 WHEREAS, the Legislature believes that schools have a  
20 mission to "advance the endowment of human nature itself, so  
21 that each succeeding generation finds itself further along the  
22 road towards peace, social justice, and environmental  
23 sustainability in a society guided by creativity, compassion,  
24 and curiosity," as expressed in the Reinventing Education Act of  
25 2004, Act 51, Session Laws of Hawaii 2004; and  
26

27 WHEREAS, despite the Department of Education's efforts to  
28 promote academic achievement, civic responsibility, and holistic  
29 development in students, only a few high schools have integrated  
30 civic learning into their curriculum; and  
31



1 WHEREAS, the youth of Hawaii have demonstrated a desire to  
2 engage and connect with their community and the world around  
3 them beyond what academic disciplines can offer; and  
4

5 WHEREAS, participation on nonprofit boards, advisory  
6 councils, and commissions is a form of community service and  
7 political engagement that helps students develop attitudes,  
8 skills, and abilities that cannot be learned through the  
9 academic disciplines or curricular programs; and  
10

11 WHEREAS, students who participate on nonprofit boards,  
12 advisory councils, or commissions can develop the skills,  
13 conduct, and attitudes needed to collaborate, build consensus,  
14 and work toward common goals with others -- skills essential to  
15 supporting and sustaining a vibrant representative democracy and  
16 a society guided by the principles of productivity and  
17 interdependency; now, therefore,  
18

19 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
20 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
21 Session of 2007, that the Board of Education is urged to adopt  
22 administrative rules to allow the Department of Education to  
23 grant elective school academic credit to high school students  
24 who participate on nonprofit boards, advisory councils, or  
25 commissions; and  
26

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature requests that  
28 the elective school credit these students receive apply toward  
29 their graduation requirements; and  
30

31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
32 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of  
33 Education and the Superintendent of Education.  
34  
35  
36

OFFERED BY:

*Iyla B. Berg*  
*Della A. Belatti*

MAR 13 2007

