

MAR 14 2007

S.C.R. NO. 139

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO STUDY THE FEASIBILITY OF
INTEGRATING PEACE EDUCATION INTO THE SCHOOL CURRICULUM.

1 WHEREAS, our country is currently involved in a war in Iraq
2 that has killed thousands of American and Iraqi peoples, has
3 cost the United States over 365 billion dollars, and to which
4 there seems to be no end in sight; and
5

6 WHEREAS, the violence that exists within our country is
7 reflected in the behavior of our youth, as demonstrated by the
8 increase in bullying in schools and situations like the
9 Columbine High School massacre; and
10

11 WHEREAS, Hawaii is very culturally, ethnically, and
12 religiously diverse, making our state unique and beautiful, but
13 such a mixture can also lead to misunderstandings that can
14 sometimes escalate into violence; and
15

16 WHEREAS, some of the aggression that has afflicted mainland
17 schools has also afflicted Hawaii's classrooms, with incidents
18 of guns in schools, and severe beatings and psychological abuse
19 among peers; and
20

21 WHEREAS, the level of violence within our country and
22 consequently, in our schools, is growing at an alarming rate,
23 and it is becoming increasingly necessary to find other ways of
24 resolving conflict besides fighting; and
25

26 WHEREAS, there are models of experiential learning that
27 stimulate critical thinking and teach students to work together
28 to solve some of Hawaii's complex social issues, thereby
29 fostering a life of compassion and an understanding of inter-
30 dependence between peers; and
31

32 WHEREAS, students would benefit greatly from inter-
33 dependent activities that would help them gain knowledge of and



1 practice the skills necessary to reduce conflicts and prevent
2 violence on a personal as well as international level, and
3 ultimately create more peaceful conditions within the schools
4 and across the globe; and

5
6 WHEREAS, the Department of Education (DOE) has already
7 included character education in its standards of learning;
8 according to its "living aloha through civil education" website,
9 all schools will implement a comprehensive approach to character
10 education which:

- 11
12 (1) Defines character in cognitive, emotional, and
13 behavioral dimensions as indicated in the core ethical
14 values;
15
16 (2) Provides character building experiences through all
17 phases of school life, including the formal and
18 informal curriculum;
19
20 (3) Is proactive--creating opportunities for teaching
21 character as well as being responsive to teachable
22 moments that spontaneously arise; and
23
24 (4) Provides students in each grade level with many and
25 varied opportunities to practice respect and
26 responsibility;

27
28 and

29
30 WHEREAS, integrating peace education into DOE curriculum
31 would work together with and significantly enhance character
32 education; now, therefore,

33
34 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth
35 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2007, the
36 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of
37 Education is requested to study the feasibility of integrating
38 peace education into the school curriculum, that would integrate
39 lessons from other institutions such as the Pacific Buddhist
40 Academy and Spark M. Matsunaga Institute for Peace, the programs
41 of which are dedicated to decreasing violence and establishing
42 greater peace throughout the world; and



1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DOE is requested to submit a
2 report to the Legislature, no later than twenty days prior to
3 convening of the regular session of 2008, on the progress of its
4 study, including:

5
6 (1) The ideas that have resulted from its discussions; and

7
8 (2) Any projected costs related to integrating peace
9 education into the school curriculum;

10
11 and

12
13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
14 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the
15 Board of Education and Superintendent of Education.
16
17
18

OFFERED BY:

Norman Sakuma

Clarence K. Dickie

JUN

