

MAR 14 2007

## SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION.

WHEREAS, the foundations of international education are:

- (1) The mobility of students and scholars who serve as cultural ambassadors between and among countries by participating in programs such as exchanges and study abroad;
- (2) A curriculum that teaches foreign languages, addresses global issues, and provides in-depth understanding of other cultures; and
- (3) Collaborative multi-national research that leads to new knowledge and technological breakthroughs;

and

WHEREAS, with today's increasingly complex international trade relations, concern for the preservation of our global environment, and the constant goal of world peace, the promotion and support of international education becomes increasingly important to our national security, foreign policy, economic competitiveness, and capacity for tolerance; and

WHEREAS, because tourism and foreign trade are key sectors of Hawaii's economic future, it is vital that this State promotes mutual understanding between the people of Hawaii and citizens of other countries through international education programs in a variety of settings, including public and private elementary and secondary schools; colleges, universities, and other proprietary academic institutions; and other educational and research organizations; and



1 WHEREAS, Hawaii enrolled over 6,000 international students  
2 at the post-secondary level alone during the 2005-2006 academic  
3 year but sends less than two percent of its local students  
4 abroad to study each year, while the most competitive U.S.  
5 educational institutions are increasing their targets to have 10  
6 percent to 100 percent of their students engage in formal  
7 international study prior to graduation; and

8  
9 WHEREAS, international education enhances social and  
10 cultural diversity both in and out of the classroom, and  
11 contributes in excess of \$110 million to the state economy each  
12 year; and

13  
14 WHEREAS, Hawaii has historically welcomed immigrants who  
15 bring diverse talents and perspectives; and

16  
17 WHEREAS, Hawaii's educational institutions must continue to  
18 strengthen their capacity to provide necessary skills,  
19 knowledge, and training for new residents from abroad, while  
20 increasing opportunities for local students to acquire the  
21 linguistic and intercultural skills to interact effectively  
22 within the changing multicultural context of the state; and

23  
24 WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of State and the U.S.  
25 Department of Education have sponsored a nationwide  
26 International Education Week since 2000 to raise Americans'  
27 awareness of the importance of international education; and

28  
29 WHEREAS, the Governor issued a proclamation on November 6,  
30 2006, declaring the week of November 13 through 17, 2006, as  
31 International Education Week in Hawaii; now, therefore,

32  
33 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth  
34 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2007, the  
35 House of Representatives concurring, that the Legislature finds  
36 that international education is an essential component of  
37 Hawaii's future; and



1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature supports and  
2 encourages international education to ensure that students and  
3 future leaders are prepared to meet the challenges of a global  
4 society; and

5  
6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature recognizes that  
7 the international students and scholars of this state contribute  
8 significantly to the cultural diversity of Hawaii's educational  
9 institutions and, through their representation, enhance the  
10 educational experience of all students while making important  
11 contributions, and the Legislature therefore supports the  
12 participation of Hawaii's students, teachers, administrators,  
13 and educational policymakers in international studies and  
14 exchange programs, and other activities that advance  
15 intercultural awareness and promote mutual understanding and  
16 respect for the citizens of other countries; and

17  
18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature encourages  
19 colleges and universities to:

- 20  
21 (1) Develop and enhance courses of study to increase  
22 students' understanding of global issues and cultural  
23 differences;  
24  
25 (2) Continue efforts to further develop courses in foreign  
26 languages to prepare students to seek careers in a  
27 global marketplace and enhance their understanding of  
28 the values of other nations;  
29  
30 (3) Facilitate the presence of qualified students from  
31 other countries with sufficient geographic diversity  
32 to inspire an appreciation for differences among  
33 cultures and a deeper understanding of the values and  
34 perspectives of other people;  
35  
36 (4) Facilitate scholarly exchanges and collaborative  
37 research partnerships with educational institutions in  
38 other countries;



- 1 (5) Encourage educational institutions to recruit and  
2 retain excellent faculty to enable Hawaii's students  
3 to become competent global citizens;  
4  
5 (6) Develop greater participation in education abroad  
6 programs by local students in all disciplines,  
7 especially underrepresented students who historically  
8 have not participated in such opportunities;  
9  
10 (7) Support the efforts of educational institutions to  
11 provide opportunities for domestic and international  
12 students to interact effectively and routinely to  
13 share their views, perceptions, and experiences; and  
14  
15 (8) Develop innovative public educational forums and  
16 venues to explore global issues and showcase world  
17 cultures;  
18

19 and  
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21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaii State Legislature  
22 will consider these goals when creating laws that will impact  
23 international education efforts in the state; and  
24

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
26 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, President  
27 of the Senate, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Chair of  
28 the Board of Regents, President of the University of Hawaii,  
29 Chair of the Board of Education, Superintendent of Education,  
30 and the respective executive directors of the University of  
31 Hawaii Professional Assembly, NAFSA: Association of  
32 International Educators, Hawaii Association of Independent  
33 Schools, and Hawaii State Teachers Association.  
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