

JAN 24 2007

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## SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO STUDY THE EDUCATIONAL  
IMPLICATIONS OF THE SPECIAL NEEDS OF PRESCHOOL AGE CHILDREN  
WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES.

1 WHEREAS, the reauthorized Individuals with Disabilities  
2 Education Act (IDEA) requires public schools to make available  
3 to all eligible children with disabilities a free appropriate  
4 public education in the least restrictive environment  
5 appropriate to their individual needs; and  
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7 WHEREAS, public schools are also required to develop  
8 appropriate Individualized Education Plans for each child; and  
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10 WHEREAS, the developmental needs of the child must be  
11 considered when developing an Individualized Education Plan; and  
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13 WHEREAS, there is a need to improve the coordination of  
14 IDEA-mandated special education and related services with  
15 respect to the appropriateness of a disabled child's  
16 developmental age, not just chronological age, due to a  
17 biological risk factor such as Down syndrome or Trisomy 21; and  
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19 WHEREAS, children with Down syndrome, for instance,  
20 generally develop at a slower rate and have different patterns  
21 of development than typically developing children; and  
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23 WHEREAS, this delay in development means that children with  
24 Down syndrome will not learn to sit, stand, walk, or talk as  
25 early as other children; and  
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27 WHEREAS, it also means that children with Down syndrome may  
28 need more repetition and more consistency than typically  
29 developing children when learning new skills; and  
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31 WHEREAS, it is recommended that a "total communication"  
32 approach, including sign language, oral communication, and



1 visual cues be used to help children with Down syndrome develop  
2 expressive language; and  
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4 WHEREAS, for children with Down syndrome who have a  
5 permanent or persistent hearing loss, it is important to  
6 consider using amplification such as hearing aids or other  
7 systems prescribed by an audiologist; and  
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9 WHEREAS, the Department of Education should study the  
10 educational implications of the special needs of preschool age  
11 children with developmental disabilities such as Down syndrome;  
12 now, therefore,  
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14 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth  
15 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2007, the  
16 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of  
17 Education is urged to study the educational implications of the  
18 special needs of preschool age children with developmental  
19 disabilities such as Down syndrome, and to consult with the  
20 Department of Health and Parent Training Centers during the  
21 study; and  
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23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is  
24 also urged to develop:  
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26 (1) Guidelines for the assessment, intervention, and  
27 education of preschool-age children with developmental  
28 disabilities, including the use of sign language for  
29 children regardless of hearing loss; and  
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31 (2) Developmental goals and criteria for preschool  
32 readiness, including appropriateness for developmental  
33 age and chronological age; and  
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35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is  
36 requested to consider adopting the December 2005, *Clinical*  
37 *Practice Guideline: Down Syndrome, Assessment and Intervention*  
38 *for Young Children (Age 0 to 3 Years)*, sponsored by the New York  
39 State Department of Health; and  
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41 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is  
42 requested to submit a report of its findings and  
43 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, 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 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chair of the Board of Education, Superintendent of Education, and Director of Health.

OFFERED BY:

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