

MAR 14 2007

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO DEVELOP A
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FOR PROGRAMS THAT PROVIDE FOR HIGH
ACHIEVING STUDENTS.

1 WHEREAS, the No Child Left Behind Act has forced schools to
2 focus their funding and efforts on the lowest achieving students
3 in order to meet the mandates of Adequate Yearly Progress
4 required by that Act; and

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6 WHEREAS, students who are capable of high academic
7 achievement, become unchallenged, bored, and may exhibit
8 behavioral problems in class, and are not reaching their full
9 potential; and

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11 WHEREAS, many families with highly capable children have
12 chosen to send their children to private schools because of a
13 perceived lack of challenging curricula in public schools; and

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15 WHEREAS, the gifted and talented programs that do exist in
16 the public schools often serve a very small percentage of highly
17 capable students; and

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19 WHEREAS, many students deemed "unqualified" for current
20 gifted and talented programs are actually capable of high
21 achievement through "perspiration" and "aspiration"; and

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23 WHEREAS, open-enrollment gifted and talented programs,
24 similar to programs at Kahuku High School and Kahuku
25 Intermediate School, show that many more students than
26 previously contemplated are capable of meeting the demands of
27 rigorous and challenging curricula; now, therefore,

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29 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth
30 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2007, the
31 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of
32 Education is requested to develop a comprehensive plan to



1 promote opportunities for high achievement with the goal of
2 twenty per cent of public school students enrolling in gifted
3 and talented programs, honors classes, advanced placement
4 courses, International Baccalaureate programs, or other similar
5 programs designed to provide rigorous and challenging curricula;
6 and
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8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the comprehensive plan include
9 the following:
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- 11 (1) The number of students currently enrolled in gifted
12 and talented programs or similar programs with highly
13 challenging academic curricula;
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- 15 (2) Recommendations on ways to increase the number of
16 enrolled students in gifted and talented programs or
17 similar programs with highly challenging academic
18 curricula, in order to reach the goal of twenty per
19 cent of public school students enrolled in such
20 programs;
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- 22 (3) Recommendations on methods to include students in the
23 gifted and talented programs who may not exhibit the
24 traditional qualifications for acceptance into such
25 programs, but who demonstrate a high aptitude for
26 achievement by other performance measures;
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- 28 (4) Program recommendations to provide opportunities for
29 potentially high achieving students;
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- 31 (5) Program recommendations in the areas of language arts,
32 social studies, math, science, fine arts, performing
33 arts, and foreign languages; and
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- 35 (6) The personnel requirements and costs associated with
36 the comprehensive plan; and
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38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is
39 requested to submit its plan and any findings and
40 recommendations to the Legislature no later than twenty days
41 prior to the convening of the 2008 Regular Session; and
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
2 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Board of Education
3 and the Superintendent of Education.
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OFFERED BY:

Norman Sakuma

