

MAR 14 2007

SENATE 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

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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

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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

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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

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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

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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

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32 WHEREAS, students would benefit greatly from inter-
33 dependent activities that would help them gain knowledge of and
34 practice the skills necessary to reduce conflicts and prevent
35 violence on a personal as well as international level, and



ultimately create more peaceful conditions within the schools and across the globe; and

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

- (1) Defines character in cognitive, emotional, and behavioral dimensions as indicated in the core ethical values;
- (2) Provides character building experiences through all phases of school life, including the formal and informal curriculum;
- (3) Is proactive--creating opportunities for teaching character as well as being responsive to teachable moments that spontaneously arise; and
- (4) Provides students in each grade level with many and varied opportunities to practice respect and responsibility;

and

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

BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2007, that the Department of Education is requested to study the feasibility of integrating peace education into the school curriculum, that would integrate lessons from other institutions such as the Pacific Buddhist Academy and Spark M. Matsunaga Institute for Peace, the programs of which are dedicated to decreasing violence and establishing 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:

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

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

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11 and

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

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18 OFFERED BY:

Norman Sakonop
Clarence K. Resnik
JWH

