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# HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION OF THE STATE OF HAWAII TO  
DEVELOP AN IMPROVED METHOD FOR CALCULATING HAWAII'S DROPOUT  
RATES USING A FOUR YEAR DROP OUT PERIOD.

1           WHEREAS, according to independent estimates, Hawaii ranks  
2 41<sup>st</sup> in the nation in graduation rates, and this results in a  
3 negative impact on the state in a wide range of areas; and  
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5           WHEREAS, approximately 5,900 students did not graduate from  
6 Hawaii's high schools in 2007; the lost lifetime earnings in  
7 Hawaii for that class of dropouts alone are more than \$1.5  
8 billion; and  
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10           WHEREAS, Hawaii would save more than \$92.7 million in  
11 health cares costs over the lifetimes of each class of dropouts  
12 had they earned their diplomas; and  
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14           WHEREAS, if Hawaii's high schools graduated all students  
15 ready for college, the state would save almost \$13.7 million a  
16 year in community college remediation costs and lost earnings;  
17 and  
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19           WHEREAS, Hawaii's economy would see a combination of crime-  
20 related savings and additional revenue of about \$18 million each  
21 year if the male high school graduation rate increased by just  
22 5%; and  
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24           WHEREAS, in order to come up with solutions to the drop out  
25 problem, state decision makers must have accurate, reliable, and  
26 concrete data on the situation; and  
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28           WHEREAS, current numbers on Hawaii's graduation rates are  
29 unreliable as different sources report conflicting numbers, and  
30 Hawaii's DOE does not use a four year drop out period; and  
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1 WHEREAS, the State reported a graduation rate of 80% while  
2 US DOE reported Hawaii's graduation rate as 72.6%, and an  
3 independent analysis estimated the rate as 64.1%, as reported by  
4 the Alliance for Excellent Education in their graduation rate  
5 estimate differences; and

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7 WHEREAS, the US DOE and the independent analysis used  
8 different method of calculation, but the same information as the  
9 Hawaii DOE; and

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11 WHEREAS, three essential steps have been identified as  
12 being key to effectively deal with the drop out problem; and

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14 WHEREAS, the first step is the need to understand the drop  
15 out problem in the school system, and identify the resources the  
16 system is devoting to ending it; and

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18 WHEREAS, the second step is developing a strategic dropout  
19 prevention, intervention and recovery plan that focuses the  
20 school system's resources, efforts, and reforms at the key  
21 points where and when students fall off the path to high school  
22 graduation; and

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24 WHEREAS, the third step is to gather the human and  
25 financial resources needed for a comprehensive and sustained  
26 campaign and develop the evaluation, accountability and  
27 continuous improvement mechanisms needed to maintain it; now,  
28 therefore,

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30 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
31 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
32 Session of 2008, the Senate concurring, that the Department of  
33 Education of the State of Hawaii is requested to develop a new  
34 method for calculating Hawaii's dropout rates using a four year  
35 drop out period; and

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37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this new method take into  
38 account factors used by federal and independent groups to come  
39 up with their graduation rates; and

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41 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED this data will be key and  
42 instrumental for essential step number one, as described above;  
43 and



1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
2 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Board of Education,  
3 the Superintendent of Education, and the Governor of the State  
4 of Hawaii.  
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OFFERED BY:



MAR 12 2008

