

MAR 10 2008

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO CONVENE A TASK FORCE
TO ENSURE THAT ADDITIONAL INVESTMENT FOR EDUCATION IN THE
STATE WILL MEET THE PUBLIC'S EXPECTATIONS.

1 WHEREAS, the key to Hawaii's future success is a strong
2 public schools system that equips our keiki with the knowledge,
3 skills, and experiences necessary to succeed; and
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5 WHEREAS, the public education system in Hawaii is in dire
6 need of increased funding to improve, expand, and establish new
7 programs and facilities; and
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9 WHEREAS, the public education system must address the
10 pending backlog of repair and maintenance projects in
11 elementary, middle, and high schools throughout the State, as
12 well as within the University of Hawaii system; and
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14 WHEREAS, the estimated cost for repair and maintenance of
15 the facilities and infrastructure on the Department of Education
16 backlog was \$341,000,000 in 2007, down from \$640,000,000 in
17 2001; and
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19 WHEREAS, the Governor failed to release \$110,000,000 in
20 fiscal year 2008 due to concerns about lower tax revenue, which
21 caused the repair and maintenance backlog to increase to
22 approximately \$420,000,000; and
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24 WHEREAS, meeting federal mandates for cesspools in schools
25 will cost \$49,000,000; and
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27 WHEREAS, rehabilitating the fifty-five existing teacher
28 cottages that are often the only housing in isolated communities
29 with reasonable rent will cost approximately \$1,800,000, and



1 helping new teachers with the high cost of housing will cost
2 multiple millions more; and

3
4 WHEREAS, providing air conditioning in all public schools
5 will cost \$750,000,000, excluding the costs required for
6 increasing the electrical capacity and the costs of increased
7 electrical usage; and

8
9 WHEREAS, updating and providing textbooks for every
10 student, providing access to high-end computers, learning tools,
11 and resources, and adequately supporting every child with a
12 caring, concerned, and competent adult mentor should be the
13 minimum expected in every public school; and

14
15 WHEREAS, instruments for school bands and orchestras, basic
16 computerized machinery for today's technical jobs in
17 construction, auto mechanics, and electronics for vocational-
18 technical programs such as Project EAST, robotics, and solar
19 cars, and equipment for video production are all presently
20 beyond the budget of most schools and can only be purchased
21 through grants, fundraising, or gifts; and

22
23 WHEREAS, Hawaii's public schools are increasingly taking on
24 the responsibility of educating students with language and
25 cultural challenges, economic and knowledge deficiencies,
26 physical and learning disabilities, and students needing special
27 attention and differentiated learning environments; and

28
29 WHEREAS, providing expanded educational opportunities such
30 as International Baccalaureate, robotics, schools-within-
31 schools, construction, tourism, and health academies, and other
32 experiential learning initiatives cost more than the traditional
33 classroom learning programs; and

34
35 WHEREAS, noncompetitive salaries for educational
36 assistants, school psychologists, business managers, therapists,
37 and pre-school teachers make hiring and retaining highly
38 qualified individuals a constant challenge; and

39
40 WHEREAS, old and new demands for more exposure to physical
41 education, fine arts, foreign languages, Science, Technology,



1 Engineering, and Mathematics programs, and vocational-technical
2 classes require more time in the school day and more qualified
3 teachers and, increases costs by millions; and
4

5 WHEREAS, while Hawaii has both one of the shortest school
6 days and one of the shortest school years, lengthening both to
7 accommodate increased learning and teaching opportunities is not
8 a consideration because of the added costs involved; and
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10 WHEREAS, in 1960, the allocation for education of
11 \$43,900,000 made up thirty-nine per cent of the state budget and
12 as late as 1990, the allocation of \$905,500,000 was thirty-five
13 per cent of the state budget, although by 2000, the education
14 allocation of \$1,525,000,000 shrunk to twenty-four per cent of
15 the budget; and
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17 WHEREAS, in 2005, the Department of Education commissioned
18 a study to determine funding required to support the vision and
19 goals of the State of Hawaii Department of Education and Board
20 of Education; and
21

22 WHEREAS, the *Adequacy Funding Study* indicated that
23 increased funding of seventeen per cent, or \$278,000,000, was
24 necessary for schools to achieve adequate standards; and
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26 WHEREAS, the study also recommended the establishment of a
27 commission with subcommittees to examine the different aspects
28 of the adequacy funding implementation proposed, update the
29 adequacy models, oversee the development of alternative model
30 schools, define performance goals for different funding levels,
31 and communicate with various stakeholders; and
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33 WHEREAS, no further action on the recommendations of the
34 *Adequacy Funding Study* has been undertaken by either the
35 Department of Education or Board of Education; now, therefore,
36

37 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth
38 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2008, the
39 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of
40 Education is requested to establish a task force on education
41 funding adequacy to re-engineer the functions, organization, and



1 processes of education and to determine and develop funding
2 adequacy; and

3
4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature requests that
5 the task force consist of seventeen members, including:

- 6
7 (1) Two members appointed by the Superintendent of
8 Education;
- 9
10 (2) Two members appointed by the President of the Senate;
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12 (3) Two members appointed by the Speaker of the House of
13 Representatives;
- 14
15 (4) One member appointed by the Governor;
- 16
17 (5) Three members appointed by the Hawaii Business
18 Roundtable; provided that the Legislature requests
19 that the three members possess and represent
20 experience in the fields of technology, finance, and
21 personnel management or human resources management;
- 22
23 (6) One member appointed by the Hawaii Association of
24 Public Accountants;
- 25
26 (7) One member representing the Hawaii P-20 Council;
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28 (8) One member representing the Hawaii Government
29 Employees Association;
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31 (9) One member representing the Hawaii State Teachers
32 Association; and
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34 (10) Three members representing public school community
35 councils; and

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37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature requests the
38 task force to convene subcommittees to review past audits and
39 program evaluations, review current utilization and adequacy of
40 resources, and review or develop proposals to increase



- 1 efficiency or productivity of specific funding categories,
2 including but not limited to:
3
4 (1) Weighted student formula;
5
6 (2) Federal funds;
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8 (3) Programs outside the weighted student formula;
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10 (4) Special education teachers, educational assistants,
11 classroom supplies;
12
13 (5) Other centralized special education and student
14 support related programs;
15
16 (6) Food services;
17
18 (7) Student transportation;
19
20 (8) Utilities;
21
22 (9) Facilities;
23
24 (10) Other centralized expenses (complex areas, the Office
25 of Curriculum, Instruction and Student Support, the
26 Office of Human Resources, and the Office of
27 Information Technology Services); and
28
29 (11) Other support to student achievement (complex area,
30 district, state level functions); and
31

32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature requests the
33 task force to direct subcommittees to examine new initiatives
34 supported by the public and the educational constituency,
35 including not limited to:

- 36
37 (1) Second language learners;
38
39 (2) Technology;
40
41 (3) Learning materials;



- 1
- 2 (4) Highly-qualified teachers;
- 3
- 4 (5) Early education;
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- 6 (6) High-achieving students;
- 7
- 8 (7) Air conditioning;
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- 10 (8) Specialized equipment and resources, such as band
- 11 instruments;
- 12
- 13 (9) Experiential learning;
- 14
- 15 (10) Business and community partnerships;
- 16
- 17 (11) Longer school day;
- 18
- 19 (12) Longer school year; and
- 20
- 21 (13) The average, regular education student; and
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23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature requests the
24 task force to prioritize the work of the subcommittees and to
25 establish goals for all subcommittees as they examine the needs,
26 processes, management, efficiencies, and accountability of the
27 funding category; and

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29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature requests the
30 task force to direct the subcommittees to include and obtain
31 input from stakeholders and qualified individuals with
32 knowledge, expertise, and experience in the relevant fields,

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34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature requests the
35 task force to direct the subcommittees to identify programs that
36 will maximize the potential of each student; and

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38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature requests the
39 task force to consider the findings of the subcommittees and to
40 establish a plan for the annual reduction of the funding
41 inadequacy, including:

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- 1
- 2 (1) Cost estimates for a multi-year implementation period
- 3 not to exceed six years; and
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- 5 (2) A cost estimate for perpetual funding to maintain an
- 6 adequate funding level; and
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8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature requests the
 9 Department of Education and its task force to submit progress
 10 reports to the Legislature not less than twenty days prior to
 11 the convening of the regular sessions of 2009 and 2010; and

12
 13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education and
 14 its task force are requested to submit a final report of any
 15 findings and recommendations, including any proposed
 16 legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior
 17 to the convening of the regular session of 2011; and

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 19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 20 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Superintendent of
 21 Education, the Chairperson of the Board of Education.

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OFFERED BY: N. Mon Sakom

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