
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING STATUS REPORTS ON CURRENT UTILIZATION OF FUNDS AND
PLANS TO CLEARLY DEMONSTRATE HOW FUNDING IS BEING TARGETED
TO IMPROVE STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT AS WELL AS A COMPARISON OF
HAWAII'S UTILIZATION TO OTHER STATES.

1 WHEREAS, the Department of Education is a large and complex
2 organization that can be operated and organized like a business
3 entity, but not in all ways; and
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5 WHEREAS, to many outside, the Department of Education
6 operates in questionable or undeterminable ways, which thereby
7 leaves the Department open to unwarranted criticism; and
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9 WHEREAS, the functions of administration, human resources,
10 fiscal services, information technology services, and business
11 services of the Department of Education can benefit by a review
12 of its functions, processes, and organization; and
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14 WHEREAS, many audits have been conducted on various
15 Department of Education services, offices, programs, and
16 functions but whether the recommendations of the audits have had
17 effect is questionable; and
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19 WHEREAS, the key to Hawaii's future success is a strong
20 public schools system that equips our keiki with the knowledge,
21 skills, and experiences necessary to succeed; and
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23 WHEREAS, the public education system in Hawaii is in dire
24 need of increased funding to improve, expand, and grow new
25 programs and facilities; and
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27 WHEREAS, the public education system also has to address
28 the pending backlog of infrastructure and facilities repair and
29 maintenance projects estimated to currently be \$400,000,000 in
30 elementary, middle, and high schools throughout the State; and
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1 WHEREAS, providing air conditioning in all schools will
2 cost \$750,000,000, excluding the costs required for increasing
3 the electrical capacity and the costs of increased electrical
4 usage; and
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6 WHEREAS, updating and providing textbooks for every
7 student; providing access to high-end computers, learning tools,
8 and resources; and adequately supporting every child with a
9 caring, concerned, and competent adult mentor should be the
10 minimum we should expect in every school; and
11

12 WHEREAS, instruments for school bands and orchestras, basic
13 but computerized machinery for today's technical jobs in
14 construction, auto mechanics, and electronics for vocational-
15 technical programs such as Project EAST, robotics, and solar
16 cars, and equipment for video production are all now presently
17 beyond the budget of most schools and can only be purchased
18 through grants, fundraising, or gifts; and
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20 WHEREAS, Hawaii's public schools are increasingly taking on
21 the responsibility of educating students with language and
22 cultural challenges such as Marshallese students, students with
23 economic and knowledge deficiencies, and student with physical
24 and learning issues, all students in need of special attention
25 and differentiated learning environments; and
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27 WHEREAS, providing expanded educational opportunities such
28 as International Baccalaureate, robotics, schools-within-
29 schools, construction, tourism, and health academies, and other
30 experiential learning initiatives cost more than the traditional
31 classroom; and
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33 WHEREAS, noncompetitive salaries for educational
34 assistants, school psychologists, business managers, therapists,
35 and pre-school teachers make filling positions with highly
36 qualified individuals a constant challenge; and
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38 WHEREAS, in 2005, the Department of Education commissioned
39 a study on funding that would adequately support the vision and
40 goals of the State of Hawaii Department of Education and Board
41 of Education; and
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1 WHEREAS, the Adequacy Funding Study indicated that
2 increased funding of seventeen per cent or \$278,000,000 was
3 necessary for schools to achieve adequate standards; and
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5 WHEREAS, the study also recommended the establishment of a
6 commission with sub-committees, to examine the different aspects
7 of the adequacy funding implementation proposed, update the
8 adequacy models, oversee the development of alternative model
9 schools, define performance goals for different funding levels,
10 and communicate with various stakeholders; and
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12 WHEREAS, no further action on the recommendations of the
13 study has been undertaken by the Department of Education or the
14 Board of Education; and
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16 WHEREAS, the general public seeks assurance that our public
17 education dollars are being spent wisely; and
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19 WHEREAS, the Department of Education should address critics
20 as well as supporters' questions regarding the \$2.3 billion
21 spent on public education; and
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23 WHEREAS, if the public is assured that the current funds
24 appropriated to the Department of Education are being
25 appropriately utilized and are at a level below the amounts
26 needed to provide a high quality education for each child, then
27 the public would likely consider supporting increased funding;
28 and
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30 WHEREAS, polls conducted in 2003 and 2007 suggested that up
31 to seventy-seven per cent of those polled would support paying
32 additional taxes for public education; and
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34 WHEREAS, the Department of Education needs to improve the
35 presentation and transparency provided to the public and
36 policymakers regarding the amounts budgeted and spent by the
37 Department; now, therefore,
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39 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth
40 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2008, the
41 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of
42 Education is requested to convene a working group, which
43 includes individuals with expertise in business and fiscal



1 management, to propose areas for improved transparency and an
2 implementation plan to accomplish such; and

3
4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that for each of its priorities, the
5 working group shall develop recommendations on more effective,
6 transparent, and cost-saving processes; organizations;
7 accounting and reporting; and rules and regulations, as well as
8 on needed resources and funding; and

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10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Hawaii Educational Policy Center
11 is requested to undertake a study of existing data that compares
12 Hawaii, national averages, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New
13 Hampshire, Connecticut, Kansas, and Washington and at least five
14 other "peer" states suggested by the Department of Education in
15 areas such as:

- 16
17 (1) Average class size;
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19 (2) Student-teacher ratio;
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21 (3) Average number of students per counselor;
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23 (4) Length of school day and school year;
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25 (5) Per pupil funding;
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27 (6) Percentage of students with special needs and school
28 budget dedicated to those students;
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30 (7) Percentage of school budget spent on administration;
31 and
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33 (8) Other data that might indicate the reasons for high
34 completion rates and proposes measures (funding and
35 resources) needed in Hawaii to provide comparable
36 educational services; and
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38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group and the
39 Hawaii Educational Policy Center are requested to prepare a
40 final or progress report of its findings and recommendations,
41 including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later
42 than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session
43 of 2009; and
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
2 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Superintendent of
3 Education, the Chairperson of the Board of Education, and the
4 Acting Director of the Hawaii Educational Policy Center.

