

MAR 10 2008

SENATE 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
30 helping new teachers with the high cost of housing will cost
31 multiple millions more; and



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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, old and new demands for more exposure to physical education, fine arts, foreign languages, Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics programs, and vocational-technical

1 classes require more time in the school day and more qualified
2 teachers and, increases costs by millions; and
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4 WHEREAS, while Hawaii has both one of the shortest school
5 days and one of the shortest school years, lengthening both to
6 accommodate increased learning and teaching opportunities is not
7 a consideration because of the added costs involved; and
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9 WHEREAS, in 1960, the allocation for education of
10 \$43,900,000 made up thirty-nine per cent of the state budget and
11 as late as 1990, the allocation of \$905,500,000 was thirty-five
12 per cent of the state budget, although by 2000, the education
13 allocation of \$1,525,000,000 shrunk to twenty-four per cent of
14 the budget; and
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16 WHEREAS, in 2005, the Department of Education commissioned
17 a study to determine funding required to support the vision and
18 goals of the State of Hawaii Department of Education and Board
19 of Education; and
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21 WHEREAS, the *Adequacy Funding Study* indicated that
22 increased funding of seventeen per cent, or \$278,000,000, was
23 necessary for schools to achieve adequate standards; and
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25 WHEREAS, the study also recommended the establishment of a
26 commission with subcommittees to examine the different aspects
27 of the adequacy funding implementation proposed, update the
28 adequacy models, oversee the development of alternative model
29 schools, define performance goals for different funding levels,
30 and communicate with various stakeholders; and
31

32 WHEREAS, no further action on the recommendations of the
33 *Adequacy Funding Study* has been undertaken by either the
34 Department of Education or Board of Education; now, therefore,
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36 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth
37 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2008,
38 that the Department of Education is requested to establish a
39 task force on education funding adequacy to re-engineer the
40 functions, organization, and processes of education and to
41 determine and develop funding adequacy; and



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2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this body requests that the
3 task force consist of seventeen members, including:

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5 (1) Two members appointed by the Superintendent of
6 Education;
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8 (2) Two members appointed by the President of the Senate;
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10 (3) Two members appointed by the Speaker of the House of
11 Representatives;
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13 (4) One member appointed by the Governor;
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15 (5) Three members appointed by the Hawaii Business
16 Roundtable; provided that this body requests that the
17 three members possess and represent experience in the
18 fields of technology, finance, and personnel
19 management or human resources management;
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21 (6) One member appointed by the Hawaii Association of
22 Public Accountants;
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24 (7) One member representing the Hawaii P-20 Council;
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26 (8) One member representing the Hawaii Government
27 Employees Association;
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29 (9) One member representing the Hawaii State Teachers
30 Association; and
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32 (10) Three members representing public school community
33 councils; and
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35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this body requests the task
36 force to convene subcommittees to review past audits and program
37 evaluations, review current utilization and adequacy of
38 resources, and review or develop proposals to increase
39 efficiency or productivity of specific funding categories,
40 including but not limited to:
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- 1 (1) Weighted student formula;
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- 3 (2) Federal funds;
- 4
- 5 (3) Programs outside the weighted student formula;
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- 7 (4) Special education teachers, educational assistants,
- 8 classroom supplies;
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- 10 (5) Other centralized special education and student
- 11 support related programs;
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- 13 (6) Food services;
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- 15 (7) Student transportation;
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- 17 (8) Utilities;
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- 19 (9) Facilities;
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- 21 (10) Other centralized expenses (complex areas, the Office
- 22 of Curriculum, Instruction and Student Support, the
- 23 Office of Human Resources, and the Office of
- 24 Information Technology Services); and
- 25
- 26 (11) Other support to student achievement (complex area,
- 27 district, state level functions); and
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29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this body requests the task
30 force to direct subcommittees to examine new initiatives
31 supported by the public and the educational constituency,
32 including not limited to:

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

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26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this body requests the task
27 force to direct the subcommittees to include and obtain input
28 from stakeholders and qualified individuals with knowledge,
29 expertise, and experience in the relevant fields,

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31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this body requests the task
32 force to direct the subcommittees to identify programs that will
33 maximize the potential of each student; and

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35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this body requests the task
36 force to consider the findings of the subcommittees and to
37 establish a plan for the annual reduction of the funding
38 inadequacy, including:

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- 40 (1) Cost estimates for a multi-year implementation period
- 41 not to exceed six years; and



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(2) A cost estimate for perpetual funding to maintain an adequate funding level; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this body requests the Department of Education and its task force to submit progress reports to this body not less than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular sessions of 2009 and 2010; and

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

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

OFFERED BY: Norman Sakonch
Clarence D. ...
Mike ...
Franne Chun ...

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Jim