

FEB 28 2008

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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION CONDUCT A  
FEASIBILITY STUDY TO EXAMINE VARIOUS IMPACTS OF A LONGER  
SCHOOL DAY ON KINDERGARTEN THROUGH GRADE TWELVE STUDENTS.

1           WHEREAS, where previous discussions focused on the concept  
2 of "intelligence" and the relative importance of nature versus  
3 nurture, the current debate focuses on "cognitive development"  
4 and the respective influences of genes and the environment; and  
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6           WHEREAS, "intelligence" was perceived as static and  
7 immutable, while "cognitive development" is viewed as a dynamic  
8 and continuous process affected by the environment, and, in  
9 particular, by a high-quality education; and  
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11           WHEREAS, although teaching all students at the level of the  
12 average student was previously acceptable, the educational  
13 system now aims to provide a learning environment in which all  
14 children meet and even exceed curriculum standards and reach  
15 their full potential as productive citizens; and  
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17           WHEREAS, more time spent in a quality learning environment  
18 increases a student's opportunity for improved learning; and  
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20           WHEREAS, learning is enhanced by a cross-disciplinary  
21 environment where art, music, games, and physical activity are  
22 all part of the curriculum; now, therefore,  
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24           BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth  
25 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2008, the  
26 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of  
27 Education is requested to conduct a feasibility study to  
28 determine whether an extension of the school day, designed to  
29 provide increased academic and sociocultural opportunities for  
30 students in kindergarten through grade twelve, is an affordable  
31 and sound investment for the State; and  
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department is requested to  
2 include in the report:

- 3  
4 (1) Information regarding the average number of classroom  
5 hours for a student in Hawaii, in the nation as a  
6 whole, and in industrialized nations whose academic  
7 performance exceeds that of the United States;  
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9 (2) An examination of the financial cost to districts and  
10 states that have an extended school day; and  
11  
12 (3) Information about the content offerings of extended  
13 school day programs; and  
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15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department is requested to  
16 submit a report of findings and recommendations, including  
17 proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty  
18 days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2009; and  
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20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
21 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Superintendent of  
22 Education and the Chairperson of the Board of Education.  
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24  
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OFFERED BY:

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Jill

Erzanne Chun O'Neil

