
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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

1 WHEREAS, the United States is not keeping pace with the
2 rest of the industrialized world, in that the United States, in
3 2006, ranked behind the top five countries in the percentage of
4 twenty to twenty-four-year-olds with a high school credential;
5 slipped to fifth among the countries in the percentage of
6 eighteen to twenty-four-year-olds enrolled in college; and
7 ranked in the bottom half of the countries, sixteenth out of
8 twenty-seven, on the proportion of students who completed
9 college certificates or degree programs; and

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11 WHEREAS, in 2006, Hawaii ranked forty-fifth out of fifty
12 states in high school and college completion percentages because
13 thirty-five per cent of students in Hawaii did not complete high
14 school; thirty-one per cent of the high school graduates did not
15 immediately enroll in college after graduation; twenty-one per
16 cent of college students did not graduate within six years of
17 entering college; and only thirteen per cent of college students
18 graduated within six years of a four-year program and three
19 years of a two-year program; and

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21 WHEREAS, the State wants to see its keiki succeed;
22 therefore, every effort needs to be made to assure that our
23 keiki are prepared to graduate from high school and college; and

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25 WHEREAS, one major way to accomplish this goal is to
26 increase the amount of time the students are in school; and

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28 WHEREAS, in Hawaii, students participate in one hundred and
29 eighty days of instruction on average per year, which is near
30 the nationwide average of one hundred and eighty-three to one
31 hundred and eighty-four days of instruction per year; and



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2 WHEREAS, in countries such as Japan and Germany, the
3 students participate in up to two hundred and forty days of
4 instruction per year; and
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6 WHEREAS, the cost associated with increasing the number of
7 days of instruction per year in Hawaii would be offset by an
8 increase in the number of qualified workers, a decrease in the
9 number of people needing public support, an increase in the
10 number of people able to directly enter the workforce after high
11 school and college, and an increase in the number of people
12 eligible to attend graduate school; thus, the standard of living
13 would increase for all of Hawaii's residents; and
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15 WHEREAS, some of the professional educators and support
16 staff already work twelve months per year; therefore, the major
17 impact would be on the direct teaching force necessitating
18 consideration of additional educators or increased or additional
19 salary; and
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21 WHEREAS, where previous discussions focused on the concept
22 of "intelligence" and the relative importance of nature versus
23 nurture, the current debate focuses on "cognitive development"
24 and the respective influences of genes and the environment; and
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26 WHEREAS, "intelligence" was perceived as static and
27 immutable, while "cognitive development" is viewed as a dynamic
28 and continuous process affected by the environment, and, in
29 particular, by a high-quality education; and
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31 WHEREAS, although teaching all students at the level of the
32 average student was previously acceptable, the educational
33 system now aims to provide a learning environment in which all
34 children meet and even exceed curriculum standards and reach
35 their full potential as productive citizens; and
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37 WHEREAS, more time spent in a quality learning environment
38 increases a student's opportunity for improved learning; and
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40 WHEREAS, learning is enhanced by a cross-disciplinary
41 environment where art, music, games, and physical activity are
42 all part of the curriculum; now, therefore,
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1 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth
2 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2008, the
3 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of
4 Education is requested to conduct a feasibility study:

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6 (1) To determine whether an extension of the school day,
7 designed to provide increased academic and
8 sociocultural opportunities for students in
9 kindergarten through grade twelve, is an affordable
10 and sound investment for the State; and

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12 (2) To examine the benefits and detriments involved in
13 increasing the number of days of instruction in the
14 current school year by ten days, twenty days, and any
15 other number of days as deemed appropriate; and

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17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is
18 requested to include in the report:

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20 (1) Information regarding the average number of classroom
21 hours and instruction days for a student in Hawaii, in
22 the nation as a whole, and in industrialized nations
23 whose academic performance exceeds that of the United
24 States;

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26 (2) An examination of the financial cost to districts and
27 states that have an extended school day;

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29 (3) Information about the content offerings of extended
30 school day programs;

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32 (4) Information on what could be learned by the students
33 during the additional days of instruction;

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35 (5) Potential schedules for extending the days of
36 instruction in the school year;

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38 (6) A breakdown of the number of hours of learning
39 involved in an increased schedule; and

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41 (7) The fiscal and non-fiscal impacts on the State, the
42 Department of Education, the teachers and support
43 staff, and the students and their families; and
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2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department is requested to
3 submit a report of findings and recommendations, including
4 proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty
5 days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2009; and
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7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
8 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Superintendent of
9 Education and the Chairperson of the Board of Education.

