

MAR 04 2008

SENATE RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO ENSURE RECOGNITION OF
CERTAIN RIGHTS OF PARENTS OF CHILDREN WHO HAVE BEEN
REFERRED FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES.

1 WHEREAS, the parents of children who are referred for
2 special education services are faced with heavy emotional and
3 physical challenges every day; and
4

5 WHEREAS, the Department of Education (DOE) should make
6 conscientious efforts to assist these parents with the
7 educational needs of their children; and
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9 WHEREAS, DOE should recognize that as the individuals who
10 probably most understand a child's social, emotional, and
11 physical needs, parents should be allowed to have input in the
12 most appropriate education for their child; and
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14 WHEREAS, despite the progress made by DOE in improving the
15 educational services provided to children with special needs,
16 many parents still feel frustrated that they are, more often
17 than not, left out of decisions made about their child's
18 education and unable to navigate DOE's special education system
19 to do what they believe is in their child's best interests; and
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21 WHEREAS, these parents are entitled to certain rights, and
22 DOE should do due diligence to assist these parents by informing
23 them of their rights; and
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25 WHEREAS, DOE already recognizes the rights granted by
26 federal law to students with disabilities and their parents or
27 guardians, the intent of which is to provide an equal
28 educational opportunity to all students with disabilities, and
29 these rights are described in a publication entitled, "Rights of
30 Parents and Students in Identification, Evaluation and
31 Educational Placement of Students with Disabilities and the
32 Provision of Free Appropriate Public Education to the Students"
33 (Section 504, Subpart D, Chapter 53, the Rehabilitation Act of
34 1973); and



S.R. NO. 52

1 WHEREAS, the Georgia Department of Education regularly
2 updates and publicizes a document entitled, "Your Rights As
3 Parents - Regarding Special Education" which lists the rights of
4 parents in regards to records, confidentiality of information,
5 independent educational evaluation, notice, consent, hearings,
6 evaluation procedures, least restrictive environment, and
7 interim alternative educational setting; now, therefore,
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9 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth
10 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2008,
11 that the DOE is urged to ensure recognition of certain rights of
12 parents of children who have been referred for special education
13 services; and
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15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if any of the rights listed in
16 the Georgia Department of Education's publication entitled,
17 "Your Rights As Parents - Regarding Special Education," are not
18 recognized by DOE, DOE is urged to consider doing so; and
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20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DOE is urged to inform all
21 parents of children who have been referred for special education
22 services of their rights, to the best of its ability; and
23

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
25 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of
26 Education, Superintendent of Education, and Director of Health.
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OFFERED BY: *Shianne Chun Oakland*

