
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO CONDUCT A FEASIBILITY
STUDY ON CONVERTING HARD COVER TEXT BOOKS TO E-BOOKS FOR
USE IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

1 WHEREAS, textbook shortages continue to be an issue for
2 many Hawaii schools; and
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4 WHEREAS, the average weight of a backpack in middle school
5 can be as much as twenty pounds, and some doctors recommend that
6 individuals never carry more than ten per cent of their body
7 weight to avoid injury; and
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9 WHEREAS, some schools do not have enough textbooks to allow
10 students to bring them home to study; and
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12 WHEREAS, textbooks typically cost between \$60 and \$90 each,
13 and even when there are enough books for each student in a
14 class, they can sometimes be too valuable to be allowed to leave
15 the classroom; and
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17 WHEREAS, an insufficient number of textbooks in a classroom
18 can cripple the teacher's ability to teach and the student's
19 ability to learn; and
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21 WHEREAS, maintaining updated textbooks for every public
22 school student in the State would cost tens of millions of
23 dollars; and
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25 WHEREAS, even when textbooks are relatively current, they
26 cannot provide a complete curriculum, and teachers must
27 supplement their lesson plans with handouts on the latest
28 research; and
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30 WHEREAS, the academic landscape has expanded to include a
31 range of resources that were technologically impossible a few



1 years ago, and the traditional textbook may no longer be
2 considered as central to a curriculum as it once was; and

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4 WHEREAS, e-books are text documents that have been
5 converted and "published" in a digital format that display on
6 specialized reading devices or computers; and

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8 WHEREAS, e-books can be stored and read on laptops, pocket
9 computers, and e-book reading devices for access at any time,
10 and a gigabyte of computer chip storage space can contain two
11 hundred illustrated reference books, three hundred fifty legal
12 volumes, or about two thousand five hundred six hundred-page
13 novels; and

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15 WHEREAS, e-books can present text in a more user-friendly
16 style than traditional books, be electronically read aloud, and
17 can allow users to adjust text size, bookmark a page, take notes
18 within a book, highlight portions of the text, add drawings,
19 look up definitions, search within the text, and copy and paste
20 selected text to other programs; and

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22 WHEREAS, e-book software could be updated more often and at
23 lower costs to schools over time; and

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25 WHEREAS, e-books can be considered stronger, dynamic,
26 interactive versions of traditional textbooks that use computer
27 programs that can respond in real time to a student's work with
28 personalized feedback, thereby tailoring and improving the
29 learning experience to meet the individual needs of the student;
30 and

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32 WHEREAS, these online textbooks can provide on-demand
33 suggestions, guided solutions, quizzes, and multiple problem
34 examples and explanations; and

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36 WHEREAS, e-books allow students to learn at their own pace,
37 without the time pressure or fear of answering incorrectly in
38 front of their peers, which can be present in a group learning
39 situation; and

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41 WHEREAS, there are many online libraries and organizations
42 that make available a large number of e-books for little or no
43 cost; and

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1 WHEREAS, e-books permit teachers to work more effectively
2 with a range of students, allowing faster learners to forge
3 ahead while giving other students more time to grasp certain
4 concepts; now, therefore,

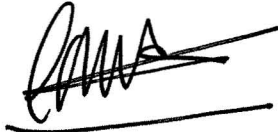
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6 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
7 Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
8 of 2009, the Senate concurring, that the Department of Education
9 is requested to conduct a feasibility study on converting hard
10 cover text books to e-books for use in public schools; and
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12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study shall include, but
13 not be limited to, considerations of cost and computer
14 accessibility; and
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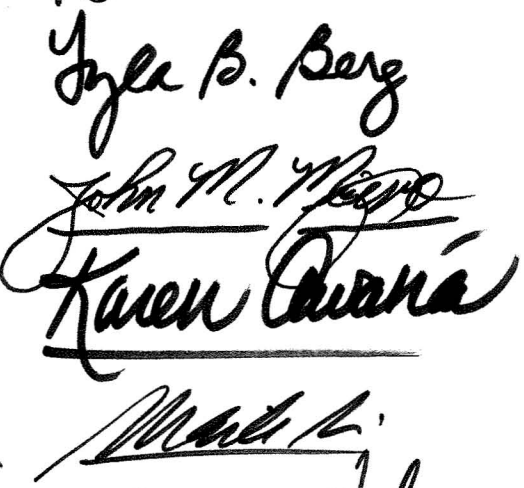
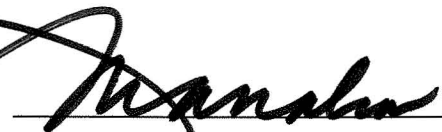
16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education
17 shall report its findings and recommendations, including cost
18 estimates, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to
19 the convening of the Regular Session of 2010; and
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21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
22 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Superintendent of
23 Education.
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OFFERED BY:


FEB 19 2009