

MAR 18 2009

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO USE CLOSED CAPTIONING AS A TEACHING AND LEARNING TOOL FOR PUBLIC ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS, AND TO ASSIST PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS OF ALL AGES WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES WHO MAY BENEFIT FROM CLOSED CAPTIONING.

1 WHEREAS, according to the Kaiser Family Foundation,
2 two-thirds of infants, toddlers, and children under the age of
3 six watch an average of two hours of television, while children
4 and teens from seven to eighteen years of age spend nearly four
5 hours a day in front of a television screen; and
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7 WHEREAS, television has replaced the time children spend
8 reading books, causing agencies such as the National Education
9 Association to take action; and
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11 WHEREAS, in 1998, the National Education Association
12 started the "Read Across America" program in an effort to
13 motivate children to read instead of watching television or
14 playing video games; and
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16 WHEREAS, while television opens up new worlds of
17 entertainment and information to children with pictures and
18 sound capturing their attention, the absence of a reading
19 component restricts this medium as a learning tool; and
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21 WHEREAS, while originally developed for the deaf and
22 hearing impaired, closed captioning also has the capability of
23 helping anyone learn by bringing reading to television; and
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25 WHEREAS, in 1986, researchers Koskinen, Wilson, and Jensema
26 noted:
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28 "Captions are reading material. They can turn television
29 into a moving story book, a steady stream of written
30 language presented with both video and audio reinforcement.



1 Viewers can see words on the screen, hear them spoken, and
2 see them put into visual context. One of the most exciting
3 potential applications of closed captioning is its use as
4 an educational tool."; and
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6 WHEREAS, research has shown that closed captioning has the
7 ability to enhance vocabulary, reading speed, word association,
8 and spelling; and
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10 WHEREAS, closed captioning is a free service provided by
11 the television industry, and most televisions purchased after
12 1993 already have the capability to display closed captioning;
13 now, therefore,
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15 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fifth
16 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2009, the
17 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of
18 Education is urged to use closed captioning as a teaching and
19 learning tool for public elementary and middle school students,
20 and to assist public school students of all ages with learning
21 disabilities who may benefit from closed captioning; and
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23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
24 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Superintendent of
25 Education and the Chair of the Board of Education.
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OFFERED BY: Elizabeth Ann O'Leary
Norman Sakuma

