
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A WORKING GROUP TO DEVELOP A
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN TO IMPROVE AWARENESS OF AND STRENGTHEN
SUPPORT FOR PERSONS WITH DYSLEXIA.

1 WHEREAS, dyslexia is a learning disability that is
2 neurobiological in origin and characterized by difficulties with
3 accurate and fluent word recognition, poor spelling, and poor
4 decoding abilities, resulting in problems with reading
5 comprehension and reduced reading experience that impede the
6 growth of vocabulary and background knowledge; and
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8 WHEREAS, students with dyslexia may experience difficulties
9 in skills such as reading, spelling, writing, and speaking; and
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11 WHEREAS, between ten and twenty per cent of Americans are
12 affected by dyslexia or other reading disabilities; and
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14 WHEREAS, a significant number of students in Hawaii,
15 including those with dyslexia, read below basic reading levels
16 and experience literacy challenges, which include difficulties
17 with language (spoken or written) or reading (in phonemic
18 awareness, phonics, vocabulary, fluency, or comprehension), or
19 difficulties with one or more of the basic neurobiological or
20 psychological processes involved in understanding or using
21 language (spoken or written) that may manifest itself in an
22 imperfect ability to listen, think, speak, read, write, spell,
23 or perform mathematical calculations; and
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25 WHEREAS, an improved awareness of and support for persons
26 with dyslexia and improved training of educators (including
27 teachers, education administrators, education officials, and
28 other employees providing instruction, assessment, or special
29 services for general, compensatory, gifted, or special
30 education; therapy; and training of students under the
31 jurisdiction of the Department of Education) will help students,
32 including those with dyslexia, obtain the necessary instruction,



1 support, skills, and resources to increase their success in
2 school; now, therefore,

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4 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
5 Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
6 of 2010, the Senate concurring, that the Department of Education
7 and the University of Hawaii are requested to establish a
8 working group to develop a comprehensive policy to improve
9 awareness of and strengthen support for persons with dyslexia;
10 and

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12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested
13 to develop a comprehensive plan to make training available to
14 educators in the State by the 2011-2012 school year, where
15 training includes technical assistance and training in the early
16 identification and assessment of dyslexia, and on the direct,
17 explicit, and systematic research-based instruction of students
18 in oral and written language; and

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20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the comprehensive plan to make
21 training available to educators in the State is requested to
22 include but not be limited to the following areas:

- 23
24 (1) Increasing awareness of dyslexia;
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26 (2) Early assessment and identification of students with
27 literacy challenges, including dyslexia;
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29 (3) A tiered continuum of intensity for research-based
30 instructional intervention within the Response to
31 Intervention model;
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33 (4) Evidence-based progress monitoring that provides
34 students, parents, and educators with data on student
35 performance and improvements, and that uses this data
36 in evaluations and decisions for instructional
37 changes;
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39 (5) Research-based interventions to address the needs of
40 students with literacy challenges, including dyslexia,
41 consistent with guidelines established by the
42 Partnership For Reading, comprising the National
43 Institute of Child Health and Human Development, the
44 National Institute for Literacy, and the United States



1 Department of Education, based on findings of the
2 National Reading Panel;

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4 (6) Practicum experience for educators in areas described
5 in paragraphs (2) to (5);

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7 (7) Consistency with federal law regarding eligibility for
8 services available for persons with specific learning
9 disabilities; and

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11 (8) Encouraging coordination and collaboration between the
12 Department of Education, the University of Hawaii, and
13 other teacher preparation programs at institutions of
14 higher education in the State; and

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16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested
17 to:

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19 (1) Consider current educational policies, practices, and
20 training with regard to literacy challenges, including
21 dyslexia;

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23 (2) Review existing dyslexia-related legislation in other
24 jurisdictions, including without limitation
25 California, Texas, Colorado, Louisiana, and Alabama;
26 and

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28 (3) Draft proposed legislation that furthers dyslexia
29 awareness and implements the findings of the working
30 group for introduction during the Regular Session of
31 2011; and

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33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the following are requested to
34 join the working group:

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36 (1) The superintendent of the Department of Education, or
37 the superintendent's designee;

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39 (2) The president of the University of Hawaii, or the
40 president's designee;

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42 (3) A retired principal representing the Hawaii Government
43 Employees Association;

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- 1 (4) A representative of the Learning Disabilities
2 Association of Hawaii;
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- 4 (5) A representative of the Dyslexia Tutoring Center of
5 Hawaii, Inc.;
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- 7 (6) A representative of the Hawaii Branch of the
8 International Dyslexia Association;
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- 10 (7) A representative of the Hawaii Association of
11 Independent Schools;
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- 13 (8) A representative of the Special Education Advisory
14 Council; and
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- 16 (9) Two representatives of the Teacher Education
17 Coordinating Committee, established under section
18 304A-1202, Hawaii Revised Statutes; and
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20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that members of the working group
21 are requested to designate a chair from among its members, serve
22 without compensation, and receive no reimbursement for expenses;
23 and
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25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaii Branch of the
26 International Dyslexia Association is requested to provide
27 administrative support for the working group, and the
28 Legislative Reference Bureau is requested to provide legislative
29 drafting services for the working group; and
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31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education and
32 the University of Hawaii are requested to provide an interim
33 report of the working group's findings and recommendations,
34 including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later
35 than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session
36 of 2011; and
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38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education and
39 the University of Hawaii are requested to provide a final report
40 of the working group's findings and recommendations, including
41 any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than
42 twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of
43 2012; and
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2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
3 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Superintendent of
4 Education, Chairperson of the Board of Education, President of
5 the University of Hawaii, Chairperson of the Board of Regents of
6 the University of Hawaii, Hawaii Government Employees
7 Association, Learning Disabilities Association of Hawaii,
8 Dyslexia Tutoring Center of Hawaii, Inc., Hawaii Branch of the
9 International Dyslexia Association, Hawaii Association of
10 Independent Schools, Special Education Advisory Council, Teacher
11 Education Coordinating Committee, and the Director of the
12 Legislative Reference Bureau.

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