
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING ALL HAWAII PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOLS TO MAKE DATA-DRIVEN AND SYSTEMATIC IMPROVEMENTS TO THEIR SCHOOL PROGRAMS, CULTURE, AND STRUCTURE TO IMPROVE COLLEGE READINESS FOR ALL STUDENTS.

1 WHEREAS, Hawaii's citizens and community leaders place a
2 high priority on quality K-12 education, and the Board of
3 Education and Superintendent of Education advance this
4 commitment toward excellence by fostering student achievement,
5 school improvement, and community involvement in education based
6 on high expectations and challenging standards; and

7
8 WHEREAS, through funding by the Bill & Melinda Gates
9 Foundation, the Educational Policy Improvement Center (EPIC) has
10 developed a college readiness model composed of the following
11 four dimensions:

- 12
- 13 (1) Key Cognitive Strategies describe the ways of thinking
14 that are necessary for college-level work, including
15 but not limited to problem-solving, inquisitiveness,
16 precision/accuracy, interpretation, reasoning,
17 research, and intellectual openness;
- 18
- 19 (2) Key Content Knowledge refers to the need for students
20 to master writing skills, algebraic concepts, key
21 foundational content, and "big ideas" from core
22 subjects in order to be college ready;
- 23
- 24 (3) Academic Behaviors consist largely of study skills and
25 self-monitoring, including but not limited to time
26 management, awareness of one's current level of
27 mastery, and selection of learning strategies; and
- 28
- 29 (4) Contextual Skills and Awareness, or "college
30 knowledge," refers to the understanding of college
31 admissions processes, college culture, tuition and



1 financial aid, and college-level academic
2 expectations; and
3

4 WHEREAS, EPIC selected and visited thirty-eight high
5 schools from throughout the United States representing a diverse
6 cross-section of schools from nearly two hundred schools
7 nominated by organizations such as the Bill & Melinda Gates
8 Foundation, the Coalition of Essential Schools, Diploma Plus,
9 The Education Trust-West, EdVisions Schools, High Schools that
10 Work, Jobs for the Future, Volunteers of America, and
11 Advancement Via Individual Determination, that had consistently
12 graduated college-ready students from underrepresented groups;
13 and
14

15 WHEREAS, the EPIC study of the thirty-eight high schools
16 identified key themes related to how participating schools
17 foster college readiness including:
18

- 19 (1) Creating and maintaining a college-going culture in
20 the school;
- 21
22 (2) Emphasizing key cognitive strategies such as
23 reasoning, problem solving, and research;
24
- 25 (3) Holding high expectations for all students, then
26 providing differing degrees of support based on
27 student need;
28
- 29 (4) Creating a core academic program that is aligned with
30 and leads to college readiness by the end of the
31 twelfth grade;
32
- 33 (5) Making the senior year meaningful and challenging,
34 keeping all students fully engaged;
35
- 36 (6) Reducing course selection choice in favor of college-
37 focused offerings, particularly for first-generation
38 college attenders;
39
- 40 (7) Creating assignments and grading policies that more
41 closely approximate college expectations each
42 successive year of high school;
43



- 1 (8) Promoting key self-management skills and providing
- 2 students feedback on the development of these skills;
- 3
- 4 (9) Preparing students for the complexity of applying to
- 5 college and the academic and social differences
- 6 between high school and college; and
- 7
- 8 (10) Building partnerships with and connections to
- 9 postsecondary programs and institutions; and
- 10

11 WHEREAS, several Hawaii public high schools have received
12 federal Smaller Learning Communities Program grants and are
13 working on creating college readiness opportunities for all
14 students at their schools; and

15
16 WHEREAS, all public high schools can participate in Running
17 Start, a P-20 initiative at the University of Hawaii that
18 encourages high school students to enroll in college courses
19 while they are still in high school; and

20
21 WHEREAS, the Advancement Via Individual Determination
22 program is available to middle schools and high schools to
23 encourage the "average" student to continue to college; and

24
25 WHEREAS, public high schools can choose to participate in
26 training and site visits offered by High Schools that Work for a
27 nominal fee; and

28
29 WHEREAS, each high school's school community council
30 reviews, gives input to, and recommends approval of high school
31 academic financial plans; and

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33 WHEREAS, each high school has developed a network of
34 community support including businesses, parents, the military,
35 and other community organizations; now, therefore,

36
37 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fifth
38 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2010, the
39 House of Representatives concurring, that all public high
40 schools and their school community councils are requested to
41 review EPIC's college readiness model and the key themes
42 described above that are followed by the thirty-eight model high
43 schools to foster college readiness in their students; and



1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all public high schools and
 2 their school community councils are requested to assess the
 3 extent to which their high school's program, culture, and
 4 structure are in line with those identified by EPIC's college
 5 readiness model, and discuss and decide what improvements need
 6 to be made at their high school to make their high school more
 7 college ready for all students; and

8
 9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all public high schools and
 10 their school community councils are requested to include the
 11 improvements that they identify to better prepare their students
 12 for college, in the academic and financial plan for their
 13 respective schools for the 2011-2012 school year; and

14
 15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is
 16 requested to report to the Legislature no later than twenty days
 17 prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2011, the
 18 extent to which high schools and their school community councils
 19 have:

- 20
 21 (1) Reviewed EPIC's college readiness model and the key
 22 themes followed by the thirty-eight model high
 23 schools;
 24
 25 (2) Evaluated their high school's college readiness; and
 26
 27 (3) Are including appropriate changes in the school's
 28 academic and financial plan; and
 29

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 31 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Superintendent of
 32 Education, the Chairperson of the Board of Education, all public
 33 high school principals, and all chairpersons of school community
 34 councils for public high schools in Hawaii.
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 36
 37

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