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

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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) A representative of the Department of Education;

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38 (2) A retired principal representing the Hawaii Government
39 Employees Association;

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41 (3) A representative of the Learning Disabilities
42 Association of Hawaii;

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- 1 (4) A representative of the Dyslexia Tutoring Center of
2 Hawaii, Inc.;
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- 4 (5) A representative of the Hawaii Branch of the
5 International Dyslexia Association;
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- 7 (6) A representative of the Hawaii Association of
8 Independent Schools;
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- 10 (7) A representative of the Special Education Advisory
11 Council; and
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- 13 (8) Two representatives of the Teacher Education
14 Coordinating Committee, established under section
15 304A-1202, Hawaii Revised Statutes; and
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17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that members of the working group
18 are requested to designate a chair from among its members, serve
19 without compensation, and receive no reimbursement for expenses;
20 and

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22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is
23 requested to provide administrative support for the working
24 group, and the Legislative Reference Bureau is requested to
25 provide legislative drafting services for the working group; and

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27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education and
28 the University of Hawaii are requested to report the working
29 group's findings and recommendations, including any proposed
30 legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior
31 to the convening of the Regular Session of 2011; and

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33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
34 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Superintendent of
35 Education, Chairperson of the Board of Education, President of
36 the University of Hawaii, Chairperson of the Board of Regents of
37 the University of Hawaii, Hawaii Government Employees
38 Association, Learning Disabilities Association of Hawaii,
39 Dyslexia Tutoring Center of Hawaii, Inc., Hawaii Branch of the
40 International Dyslexia Association, Hawaii Association of

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1 Independent Schools, Special Education Advisory Council, Teacher
2 Education Coordinating Committee, and the Director of the
3 Legislative Reference Bureau.
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