
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 result in an imperfect
22 ability to listen, think, speak, read, write, spell, or perform
23 mathematical calculations; and
24

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 plan to
9 improve awareness of and strengthen support for persons with
10 dyslexia, partly through the provision of training for educators
11 in the State by the 2012-2013 school year, where training
12 includes technical assistance and training in the early
13 identification and assessment of dyslexia, and on the direct,
14 explicit, and systematic research-based instruction of students
15 in oral and written language; and

16
17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the comprehensive plan is
18 requested to include but not be limited to the following areas:

- 19
- 20 (1) Increasing awareness of dyslexia;
- 21
- 22 (2) Early assessment and identification of students with
- 23 literacy challenges, including dyslexia;
- 24
- 25 (3) A tiered continuum of intensity for research-based
- 26 instructional intervention within the Response to
- 27 Intervention model;
- 28
- 29 (4) Evidence-based progress monitoring that provides
- 30 students, parents, and educators with data on student
- 31 performance and improvements, and that uses this data
- 32 in evaluations and decisions for instructional
- 33 changes;
- 34
- 35 (5) Research-based interventions to address the needs of
- 36 students with literacy challenges, including dyslexia,
- 37 consistent with guidelines established by the
- 38 Partnership For Reading, comprising the National
- 39 Institute of Child Health and Human Development, the
- 40 National Institute for Literacy, and the United States
- 41 Department of Education, based on findings of the
- 42 National Reading Panel;
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- 1 (6) Practicum experience for educators in areas described
- 2 in paragraphs (2) to (5);
- 3
- 4 (7) Consistency with federal law regarding eligibility for
- 5 services available for persons with specific learning
- 6 disabilities; and
- 7
- 8 (8) Encouraging coordination and collaboration among the
- 9 Department of Education, the University of Hawaii, and
- 10 other teacher preparation programs at institutions of
- 11 higher education in the State; and
- 12

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested
14 to:

- 15
- 16 (1) Consider current educational policies, practices, and
- 17 training with regard to literacy challenges, including
- 18 dyslexia; and
- 19
- 20 (2) Review existing dyslexia-related legislation in other
- 21 jurisdictions, including without limitation
- 22 California, Texas, Colorado, Louisiana, and Alabama;
- 23 and
- 24

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the following are requested to
26 join the working group:

- 27
- 28 (1) A representative of the Department of Education;
- 29
- 30 (2) A representative of the University of Hawaii;
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- 32 (3) A retired principal representing the Hawaii Government
- 33 Employees Association;
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- 35 (4) A representative of the Learning Disabilities
- 36 Association of Hawaii;
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- 38 (5) A representative of the Dyslexia Tutoring Center of
- 39 Hawaii, Inc.;
- 40
- 41 (6) A representative of the Hawaii Branch of the
- 42 International Dyslexia Association;
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- 1 (7) A representative of the Hawaii Association of
- 2 Independent Schools;
- 3
- 4 (8) A representative of the Special Education Advisory
- 5 Council; and
- 6
- 7 (9) Two representatives of the Teacher Education
- 8 Coordinating Committee, established under section
- 9 304A-1202, Hawaii Revised Statutes; and

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11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that members of the working group

12 are requested to designate a chair from among its members, serve

13 without compensation, and receive no reimbursement for expenses;

14 and

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16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is

17 requested to provide administrative support for the working

18 group, and the Legislative Reference Bureau is requested to

19 provide legislative drafting services for the working group;

20 provided that the working group is requested to submit its

21 proposals for legislation to the Legislative Reference Bureau

22 not later than November 1, 2011; and

23

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education and

25 the University of Hawaii are requested to submit the working

26 group's comprehensive plan, including any proposed legislation

27 that furthers dyslexia awareness and implements the findings of

28 the working group, to the Legislature no later than twenty days

29 prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2012; and

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31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this

32 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Superintendent of

33 Education, Chairperson of the Board of Education, President of

34 the University of Hawaii, Chairperson of the Board of Regents of

35 the University of Hawaii, Hawaii Government Employees

36 Association, Learning Disabilities Association of Hawaii,

37 Dyslexia Tutoring Center of Hawaii, Inc., Hawaii Branch of the

38 International Dyslexia Association, Hawaii Association of

39 Independent Schools, Special Education Advisory Council,

40 Chairperson of the Teacher Education Coordinating Committee, and

41 the Director of the Legislative Reference Bureau.

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