
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING A REPORT ON TO THE ESTIMATED COST, COST SAVINGS, AND
IMPACT OF PROVIDING AND EXPANDING ONLINE INSTRUCTION
THROUGH THE HAWAII VIRTUAL LEARNING NETWORK'S PROGRAMS AND
COURSES.

1 WHEREAS, the mission of the Hawaii Board of Education is to
2 promote excellence and equity in Hawaii's public schools and
3 enable all students to meet their own unique and varied
4 potentials; and

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6 WHEREAS, the Legislature finds that traditional classroom
7 instruction offered by the Department of Education does not meet
8 the needs of every student; and

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10 WHEREAS, some students learn at a faster rate than their
11 peers, which causes those students to become bored at school;
12 and

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14 WHEREAS, the Department of Education is in the midst of an
15 unprecedented fiscal crisis; and

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17 WHEREAS, instructional programs that require students to
18 conduct most of their studies online could lower the cost of
19 public education by reducing the number of teachers needed and
20 cutting the cost of operating school facilities; and

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22 WHEREAS, Act 275, Session Laws of Hawaii 2007, established
23 the Hawaii Online Task Force to develop a systematic plan to
24 expand opportunities for online learning to enhance the learning
25 experiences of students across the State; and

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27 WHEREAS, the Hawaii Virtual Learning Network, a product of
28 the Hawaii Online Task Force, is a collaborative partnership of
29 the Department of Education's E-School, Myron B. Thompson
30 Academy, and the University of Hawaii Online Learning Academy



1 that establishes criteria for, evaluates, and approves online
2 courses to be offered in Hawaii's schools; offers training for
3 Hawaii teachers to serve as online instructors; provides
4 centralized support services to online students; and establishes
5 partnerships with institutes of higher education, private
6 schools, charter schools, state virtual schools, and commercial
7 vendors; and

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9 WHEREAS, the Department of Education already offers online
10 courses to high school and middle school students through
11 various initiatives such as the Hawaii Virtual Learning Network;
12 and

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14 WHEREAS, the Legislature finds that that the Hawaii Virtual
15 Learning Network has made laudable efforts to increase on-time
16 graduation rates, increase student achievement and interest,
17 prepare students for the workforce, and lower the cost of public
18 education; now, therefore,

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20 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fifth
21 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2010, the
22 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of
23 Education is requested to report to the Legislature:

- 24
25 (1) The cost of providing online instruction through the
26 Hawaii Virtual Learning Network, in total and per
27 student, and estimated cost savings of providing
28 online versus classroom instruction;
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30 (2) The cost of expanding the Network's programs or
31 courses, including costs for technology and
32 infrastructure, technical support, additional teaching
33 materials, and occasional face-to-face meetings
34 between teachers and students;
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36 (3) The impact of the courses or programs provided through
37 the Network on students and teachers who participate
38 in the Network's programs or courses; and
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40 (4) The academic achievement, including measures of
41 improved learning if any, of student participants in
42 the Network's programs or courses; and
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is
2 requested to submit its report to the Legislature no later than
3 twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of
4 2012; and

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6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
7 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the
8 Board of Education and the Superintendent of Education.

