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# 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

13  
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,  
3

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  
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17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the comprehensive plan is  
18 requested to include but not be limited to the following areas:  
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- 20 (1) Increasing awareness of dyslexia;
- 21
- 22 (2) Early assessment and identification of students with  
23 literacy challenges, including dyslexia;  
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- 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  
10

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; and  
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21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education and  
22 the University of Hawaii are requested to submit the working  
23 group's comprehensive plan, including any proposed legislation  
24 that furthers dyslexia awareness and implements the findings of  
25 the working group, to the Legislature no later than twenty days  
26 prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2012; and  
27

28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
29 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Superintendent of  
30 Education, Chairperson of the Board of Education, President of  
31 the University of Hawaii, Chairperson of the Board of Regents of  
32 the University of Hawaii, Hawaii Government Employees  
33 Association, Learning Disabilities Association of Hawaii,  
34 Dyslexia Tutoring Center of Hawaii, Inc., Hawaii Branch of the  
35 International Dyslexia Association, Hawaii Association of  
36 Independent Schools, Special Education Advisory Council,  
37 Chairperson of the Teacher Education Coordinating Committee, and  
38 the Director of the Legislative Reference Bureau.  
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