

MAR 10 2010

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING A STATUS REPORT AND UPDATE ON THE STEM, RESEARCH
EXPERIENCES FOR TEACHERS - MIDDLE SCHOOL, PROJECT
ENVIRONMENTAL AND SPATIAL TECHNOLOGY, AND ROBOTICS PROGRAMS
WITHIN PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

1 WHEREAS, in 2007, the National Governors Association made
2 improving the nation's economic competitiveness through
3 innovation its primary focus, and in a report titled, "A
4 Benchmarking of the Hawaii Educational System", Monitor Group
5 and the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices
6 profiled how Hawaii's educational system was performing relative
7 to national averages; and

8
9 WHEREAS, although Hawaii's high school graduation rate is
10 close to the national average, its postsecondary completion rate
11 is below the national average, and significantly below the
12 highest-performing states; and

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14 WHEREAS, the 2007 Legislature strongly endorsed initiatives
15 related to science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM)
16 fields, and creative media education as the most practical,
17 hands-on means of increasing students' interest in pursuing math
18 and science and technology careers; and

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20 WHEREAS, emphasizing the need to build upon solid
21 performance outcomes, the Legislature enacted Act 111, Session
22 Laws of Hawaii 2007 (Act 111), which expanded existing STEM
23 programs like robotics (including FIRST Lego League, Junior
24 FIRST Lego League, botball, underwater ROV, VEX, Micro-Robot,
25 and robotics camps) and Research Experiences for Teachers -
26 Middle School, and Act 271, Session Laws of Hawaii 2007 expanded
27 Project EAST, the Environmental and Spatial Technology program;
28 and

29
30 WHEREAS, the initial legislative targets for 2007-2008 were
31 to double the existing forty-eight STEM, Research Experiences



1 for Teachers - Middle School, Project Environmental and Spatial
2 Technology, and robotics programs within public schools to
3 achieve a level of eighty-four school initiatives, and these
4 goals were far exceeded; now, therefore,
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6 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fifth
7 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2010, the
8 House of Representatives concurring, that a status report on the
9 economic impact of expanded workforce development outcomes be
10 provided by those entities most directly involved in expanding
11 the State's STEM initiatives and tracking growth of emerging
12 industries in defense and dual-use, astronomy, engineering,
13 aquaculture, and biotech and related industries; and
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15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that an update on the STEM, Research
16 Experiences for Teachers - Middle School, Project Environmental
17 and Spatial Technology, and robotics programs within public
18 schools is requested from the following:
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- 20 (1) University of Hawaii College of Engineering;
- 21
- 22 (2) Department of Education;
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- 24 (3) Department of Business, Economic Development, and
25 Tourism Energy Division;
- 26
- 27 (4) Robotics Organizing Committee; and
28
- 29 (5) Economic Development Alliance of Hawaii and the Hawaii
30 3Ts School Technology Laboratories Fund, under section
31 302A-1314, Hawaii Revised Statutes; and
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33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that these five entities report to
34 the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the Regular
35 Session of 2011, on the status of their activities and
36 recommendations; and
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38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
39 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Dean of the
40 University of Hawaii College of Engineering; Superintendent of
41 Education; Director of the Department of Business, Economic
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1 Development, and Tourism Energy Division; Executive Director of
2 the Robotics Organizing Committee; and Chair of the Economic
3 Development Alliance of Hawaii.
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OFFERED BY:

<u>Will Ezyew</u>	<u>David Ylze</u>
<u>Norman Sakomys</u>	<u>Jill</u>
	<u>Carol Fukuwaga</u>

