

JAN 21 2010

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO SET MORE STANDARDIZED
REQUIREMENTS FOR SENIOR PROJECTS.

1 WHEREAS, beginning with the graduating class of 2010,
2 students are required to complete a senior project in partial
3 fulfillment of the Board of Education Recognition Diploma, which
4 is a diploma offered to all public school students who elect to
5 complete more rigorous graduation requirements; and
6

7 WHEREAS, the senior project is a school-based initiative,
8 which means that the Department of Education sets certain
9 standardized guidelines but allows each individual school to set
10 its own detailed requirements for senior projects submitted to
11 that school; and
12

13 WHEREAS, each senior project is composed of four elements -
14 a research paper, a culminating activity (a career focus,
15 service learning, or student personal interest project), a
16 project portfolio, and a presentation to a panel; and
17

18 WHEREAS, due to the flexibility provided by the Department
19 of Education to each school in implementing senior projects,
20 requirements for senior projects vary widely across schools in
21 the State despite some minimum guidelines set by the Department
22 of Education; and
23

24 WHEREAS, the "learning stretch" is one criterion used to
25 determine the quality of a senior project and can be subject to
26 differing interpretations based on the school a student attends
27 or the particular senior project panel reviewing the student
28 project; and
29

30 WHEREAS, some schools require the completion of one hundred
31 hours of community service, while other schools require the
32 completion of only forty hours of community service, towards the
33 culminating activity of the senior project; and

34 WHEREAS, a student who is pursuing a Board of Education
35 Recognition Diploma and transfers to another high school in the
36 State is responsible for meeting the senior project requirements



1 of that student's new school, which may present a significant
2 barrier to the completion of that student's senior project; and
3

4 WHEREAS, the flexibility granted to each individual school
5 in setting requirements for senior projects creates unequal and
6 inconsistent standards for attaining the Board of Education
7 Recognition Diploma; now, therefore,
8

9 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fifth
10 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2010,
11 that the Department of Education is requested to set more
12 standardized criteria that shall apply to all public school
13 students in the State who choose to pursue a Board of Education
14 Recognition Diploma; and
15

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the standardized criteria set
17 by the Department of Education ensure a consistent quality of
18 work required and fair grading of work required to attain the
19 Board of Education Recognition Diploma; and
20

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the standardized criteria set
22 by the Department of Education include but not be limited to the
23 following:
24

- 25 (1) A standard number of hours required to fulfill the
26 culminating activity; and
27
- 28 (2) A standardized definition of the "learning stretch"
29 that shall be applied uniformly across public schools
30 statewide; and
31

32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
33 Resolution be transmitted to the Superintendent of Education and
34 the Chairperson of the Board of Education.
35
36
37

OFFERED BY: Stoanne Chun Cleveland
Thelville N. Sidani
Carol Fukuwaga
Amiye

