

MAR 10 2010

SENATE 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

13
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

19
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
32 for Teachers - Middle School, Project Environmental and Spatial
33 Technology, and robotics programs within public schools to



1 achieve a level of eighty-four school initiatives, and these
2 goals were far exceeded; 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,
6 that a status report on the economic impact of expanded
7 workforce development outcomes be provided by those entities
8 most directly involved in expanding the State's STEM initiatives
9 and tracking growth of emerging industries in defense and dual-
10 use, astronomy, engineering, aquaculture, and biotech and
11 related industries; and

12
13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that an update on the STEM, Research
14 Experiences for Teachers - Middle School, Project Environmental
15 and Spatial Technology, and robotics programs within public
16 schools is requested from the following:

- 17
18 (1) University of Hawaii College of Engineering;
19
20 (2) Department of Education;
21
22 (3) Department of Business, Economic Development, and
23 Tourism Energy Division;
24
25 (4) Robotics Organizing Committee; and
26
27 (5) Economic Development Alliance of Hawaii and the Hawaii
28 3Ts School Technology Laboratories Fund, under section
29 302A-1314, Hawaii Revised Statutes; and
30

31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that these five entities report to
32 the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the Regular
33 Session of 2011, on the status of their activities and
34 recommendations; and

35
36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
37 Resolution be transmitted to the Dean of the University of
38 Hawaii College of Engineering; Superintendent of Education;
39 Director of the Department of Business, Economic Development,
40 and Tourism Energy Division; Executive Director of the Robotics
41



1 Organizing Committee; and Chair of the Economic Development
2 Alliance of Hawaii.

3
4
5

OFFERED BY: David Y. Lee

Will Eyo

Jill

Norman Sakemura

Carol Fukunaga

