
SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING REPORTS ON THE ECONOMIC VALUE OF EXPANDED WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT CAPACITY AND STEM INITIATIVES.

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

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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, which expanded existing STEM programs like
23 robotics (including FIRST Lego League, Junior FIRST Lego League,
24 botball, underwater ROV, VEX, Micro-Robot, and robotics camps)
25 and Research Experiences for Teachers - Middle School, and Act
26 271, Session Laws of Hawaii 2007, which expanded Project EAST,
27 the Environmental and Spatial Technology program; and

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29 WHEREAS, the initial legislative targets for 2007-2008 were
30 to double the existing forty-eight STEM, Research Experiences
31 for Teachers - Middle School, Project Environmental and Spatial
32 Technology, and robotics programs within public schools to
33 achieve a level of eighty-four school initiatives, and these
34 goals were far exceeded during 2008-2010; now, therefore,



1 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fifth
2 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2010,
3 that a report on the economic value of expanded workforce
4 development capacity be provided by the Department of Business,
5 Economic Development, and Tourism, which is responsible for
6 tracking growth of emerging industries in defense and dual-use,
7 astronomy, engineering, aquaculture, biotech, digital media, and
8 related industries; and

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10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that an update on STEM initiatives,
11 including Research Experiences for Teachers - Middle School,
12 Project Environmental and Spatial Technology, Hi-EST, and FIRST
13 academies, and other robotics within Hawaii schools, is
14 requested from the following:

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16 (1) University of Hawaii College of Engineering;
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18 (2) Department of Education;
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20 (3) Department of Business, Economic Development, and
21 Tourism;
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23 (4) Robotics Organizing Committee; and
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25 (5) Economic Development Alliance of Hawaii Inc., and the
26 Hawaii 3Ts School Technology Laboratories Fund, under
27 section 302A-1314, Hawaii Revised Statutes; and
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29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that these entities provide their
30 respective written reports to the Legislature no later than
31 twenty days prior to the Regular Session of 2011, on:

- 32
33 (1) The economic value of expanded workforce development
34 capacity of emerging industries in defense and dual-
35 use, astronomy, engineering, aquaculture, biotech,
36 digital media, and related industries; and
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38 (2) The status of each entity's STEM initiatives,
39 activities, and recommendations for long-term
40 expansion and funding requirements; and
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42 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
43 Resolution be transmitted to the Dean of the University of
44 Hawaii College of Engineering; Superintendent of Education;



- 1 Director of the Department of Business, Economic Development,
- 2 and Tourism; Executive Director of the Robotics Organizing
- 3 Committee; and Chair of the Economic Development Alliance of
- 4 Hawaii Inc.

