
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING A FINANCIAL AND MANAGEMENT AUDIT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION.

1 WHEREAS, Hawaii's public education system has been
2 criticized for its inadequate delivery of educational services
3 and for poor student achievement; and
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5 WHEREAS, the large bureaucracy of the Department of
6 Education presents roadblocks that could prevent the Department
7 of Education and the individual schools from successfully
8 performing their duties and serving the needs of Hawaii's
9 children; and
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11 WHEREAS, recently, the Department became the subject of
12 local and national news when furloughs were imposed in the
13 public schools, which reduced the number of instructional days
14 for students; and
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16 WHEREAS, the Department's leadership was decentralized
17 through the creation of the complex area system to place a
18 greater number of decisions and more funds directly in the hands
19 of individual school administrators; and
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21 WHEREAS, Act 51, Session Laws of Hawaii 2004, was intended
22 to implement comprehensive reform in Hawaii's public schools by,
23 among other things:
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- 25 (1) Reducing the bureaucracy that hampers the
26 effectiveness of the Department of Education; and
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- 28 (2) Focusing more resources and control at the individual
29 school level; and
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31 WHEREAS, today, the Department of Education remains under
32 close public scrutiny, both locally and nationally; and



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2 WHEREAS, the public has raised many questions about the
3 Department's operations, including its finances and management;
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6 WHEREAS, a financial and management audit of the Department
7 of Education is long overdue; and

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9 WHEREAS, an audit of the Department would improve critical
10 educational services provided by this large taxpayer-funded
11 institution that absorbs a large percentage of the state budget,
12 by examining in-depth the effectiveness and efficiency of
13 departmental operations, both at the management and
14 administrative levels, including the:

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16 (1) Organization and management of the Department of
17 Education, especially with regard to personnel; and
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19 (2) Efficacy of fiscal operations, especially with respect
20 to spending and accountability; and
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22 WHEREAS, it is imperative that the Department remain
23 committed to providing quality education for all of Hawaii's
24 children, ensuring that all staff members and resources are
25 dedicated to that mission; and

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27 WHEREAS, an audit would ensure that the Department of
28 Education adheres to its mission to provide all of Hawaii's
29 children with the tools they need to be successful in a global
30 society; and

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32 WHEREAS, an audit of the entire Department of Education
33 system will be costly and time consuming and thus warrants focus
34 on a specific program; now therefore

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36 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
37 Twenty-sixth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
38 of 2011, the Senate concurring, that the Auditor is requested to
39 perform a financial and management audit of the Department of
40 Education's EDN-150 and related services; and

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42 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Auditor is requested to
43 submit a report of any findings and recommendations to the



1 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
2 the Regular Session of 2012; and

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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
5 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Auditor, the
6 Chairperson of the Board of Education, and the Superintendent of
7 Education.

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