
HOUSE 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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1 WHEREAS, the public has raised many questions about the
2 Department's operations, including its finances and management;
3 and
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5 WHEREAS, a financial and management audit of the Department
6 of Education is long overdue; and
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8 WHEREAS, an audit of the Department would improve critical
9 educational services provided by this large taxpayer-funded
10 institution that absorbs a large percentage of the state budget,
11 by examining in-depth the effectiveness and efficiency of
12 departmental operations, both at the management and
13 administrative levels, including the:
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15 (1) Organization and management of the Department of
16 Education, especially with regard to personnel; and
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18 (2) Efficacy of fiscal operations, especially with respect
19 to spending and accountability; and
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21 WHEREAS, it is imperative that the Department remain
22 committed to providing quality education for all of Hawaii's
23 children, ensuring that all staff members and resources are
24 dedicated to that mission; and
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26 WHEREAS, an audit would ensure that the Department of
27 Education adheres to its mission to provide all of Hawaii's
28 children with the tools they need to be successful in a global
29 society; now, therefore,
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31 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
32 Twenty-sixth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
33 of 2011, that the Auditor is requested to perform a financial
34 and management audit of the Department of Education that focuses
35 on the departmental level; and
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37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Auditor is requested to
38 submit a report of any findings and recommendations to the
39 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
40 the Regular Session of 2012; and
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42 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
43



H.R. NO. 29

1 Resolution be transmitted to the Auditor, the Chairperson of the
2 Board of Education, and the Superintendent of Education.
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OFFERED BY:

T. Leah

Della A. Beletti

FEB - 2 2011

