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# 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; and  
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31           WHEREAS, an audit of the entire Department of Education  
32 system will be costly and time consuming and thus warrants focus  
33 on a specific program; now therefore  
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35           BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
36 Twenty-sixth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
37 of 2011, that the Auditor is requested to perform a financial  
38 and management audit of the Department of Education's EDN-150  
39 and related services; and  
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Auditor is requested to  
2 submit a report of any findings and recommendations to the  
3 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of  
4 the Regular Session of 2012; and

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

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