

MAR 11 2011

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO IMPLEMENT A STUDENT CELL
PHONE BAN IN ALL PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

1 WHEREAS, the use of cell phones by students during class is
2 disruptive and distracting; and
3

4 WHEREAS, it has been speculated that cell phones have been
5 used by students to undermine academic integrity and to
6 facilitate such negative behavior as gang activity; and
7

8 WHEREAS, National School Safety and Security Services
9 (NSSSS), a national school safety consulting firm, finds that
10 contrary to what many people believe, allowing cell phones in
11 classrooms is not a tool for student safety during crisis
12 situations; and
13

14 WHEREAS, NSSSS has cautioned that students often use cell
15 phones to call in bomb threats, forcing the evacuation of an
16 entire school and making it nearly impossible for security teams
17 to determine where the call came from or who is responsible; and
18

19 WHEREAS, some schools consider cell phones to be as
20 dangerous as weapons because students can use them to call or
21 text other students to join in during fights; and
22

23 WHEREAS, at Bradley Tech High School in Wisconsin, cell
24 phones were used by students to call in reinforcements to a
25 fight that involved over twenty people, requiring police to use
26 pepper spray to break up the fight; and
27

28 WHEREAS, in 2006, the Jeff Davis Parish School System in
29 Louisiana approved a ban on student cell phones during school
30 hours, requiring students to either leave their cell phones in
31 their cars or check them into the school office in the morning;
32 and
33



1 WHEREAS, the Prince George's County School Board in
2 Maryland has approved one of the strictest bans on student cell
3 phone use by prohibiting all phone calls, texting, and
4 twittering on school property during the school day; and
5

6 WHEREAS, a 2002 nationwide survey of school-based police
7 officers shows that sixty-eight percent of all officers surveyed
8 believe that student use of cell phones detracts from overall
9 school safety in the event of a crisis on campus; and
10

11 WHEREAS, small-sized cell phones and inaudible and
12 high-pitched ringtones make cell phones very easy to hide while
13 in use; and
14

15 WHEREAS, the one-hundred-sixty-character confines of a
16 standard short message service (SMS) or text message cause
17 students to shorten their messages and do away with punctuation,
18 possibly weakening their written and oral communication skills;
19 and
20

21 WHEREAS, a survey by CTIA-The Wireless Association found
22 that twenty-eight percent of all teenagers reported using their
23 web-ready cell phones to browse the Internet, making cheating
24 during school easier; and
25

26 WHEREAS, forty-one percent of parents are concerned about
27 their child being exposed to sexual predators via text
28 messaging; and
29

30 WHEREAS, thirty-one percent of parents are concerned about
31 the exposure of their child to mobile bullying or harassment;
32 now, therefore,
33

34 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-sixth
35 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2011, the
36 House of Representatives concurring, that the Board of Education
37 is requested to implement a student cell phone ban in all public
38 schools; and
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
2 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the
3 Board of Education and the Superintendent of Education.
4
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6

OFFERED BY: _____

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Jh', is written over a horizontal line.