

MAR 16 2011

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## SENATE RESOLUTION

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REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO CONDUCT A CLOSED  
CAPTIONING PILOT PROJECT AS A TEACHING AND LEARNING TOOL  
FOR PUBLIC ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS.

1 WHEREAS, according to the Kaiser Family Foundation, the  
2 amount of daily media use among children and teens has increased  
3 dramatically from 2004 to 2009; and  
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5 WHEREAS, the Kaiser Family Foundation also reports that  
6 although the amount of time spent watching regularly-scheduled  
7 television declined between 2004 and 2009 due to the ability to  
8 watch television through the Internet, cell phones, and other  
9 devices, America's young people still average over two and one-  
10 half hours of live television watching on a television set per  
11 day; and  
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13 WHEREAS, television replaces much of the time that children  
14 might otherwise spend reading books; and  
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16 WHEREAS, while television opens up new worlds of  
17 entertainment and information to children with pictures and  
18 sound capturing their attention, the absence of a reading  
19 component restricts this medium as a learning tool; and  
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21 WHEREAS, while originally developed for the deaf and  
22 hearing impaired, closed captioning also has the capability of  
23 enhancing learning by bringing reading to television; and  
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25 WHEREAS, in 1986, researchers Koskinen, Wilson, and Jensema  
26 noted:  
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28 "Captions are reading material. They can turn television  
29 into a moving story book, a steady stream of written  
30 language presented with both video and audio reinforcement.  
31 Viewers can see words on the screen, hear them spoken, and  
32 see them put into visual context. One of the most exciting  
33 potential applications of closed captioning is its use as  
34 an educational tool"; and  
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1 WHEREAS, research has shown that closed captioning has the  
2 ability to enhance vocabulary, reading speed, word association,  
3 and spelling; and  
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5 WHEREAS, closed captioning is a free service provided by  
6 the television industry, and most televisions purchased after  
7 1993 already have the capability to display closed captioning;  
8 now, therefore,  
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10 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-sixth  
11 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2011,  
12 that the Department of Education is requested to implement a  
13 closed captioning pilot project beginning with the 2011-2012  
14 school year as a teaching and learning tool for public  
15 elementary and middle school students to be selected by the  
16 Department; and  
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18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the closed captioning pilot  
19 project should be designed to compare levels of reading ability  
20 between a group of students who have captioning integrated into  
21 their school curriculum and a group of students who do not have  
22 captioning integrated into their school curriculum; and  
23

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education, at  
25 the end of the 2011-2012 school year, is requested to compile a  
26 report on the status of the closed captioning pilot project that  
27 includes:  
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- 29 (1) The age, grade level, and reading ability of students  
30 at the beginning of the pilot project who had closed  
31 captioning integrated into their curriculum;  
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- 33 (2) The age, grade level, and reading ability of students  
34 at the beginning of the pilot project who did not have  
35 closed captioning integrated into their school  
36 curriculum;  
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- 38 (3) Any change in reading ability from the beginning to  
39 the end of the pilot project of all students who  
40 participated in the pilot project; and  
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- 42 (4) A comparison, at the end of the pilot project, between  
43 the reading levels of the two groups of students; and  
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