
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE HAWAI'I CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO SUPPORT THE
TEACH FOR AMERICA PROGRAM.

1 WHEREAS, Teach For America, in partnership with the
2 Department of Education, seeks to help address the problem of
3 educational inequity by recruiting, selecting, training, and
4 supporting outstanding individuals who commit two years to
5 teaching in low-income schools and go on to become leaders in
6 their own right, in the movement to achieve educational equity;
7 and

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9 WHEREAS, Teach For America relies on federal funding to
10 support its program annually, and has received \$21 million in
11 2010 through Congressional appropriations, and have requested
12 \$50 million for the 2011 Fiscal Year; and

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14 WHEREAS, the requested funds for Fiscal Year 2011 will
15 enable Teach For America to place an additional 1,350 corps
16 members, reaching 86,000 students, in low-income communities;
17 and

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19 WHEREAS, without future funding, Teach For America would
20 have to turn away well over a thousand applicants who otherwise
21 would have started working immediately to close the achievement
22 gap between students in low-income communities and their peers
23 in higher-income areas; and

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25 WHEREAS, the requested \$50 million federal allocation in
26 Fiscal Year 2011 will help to solidify Teach For America's
27 mission to reach one million students in low-income communities
28 each day by 2015; and

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30 WHEREAS, federal funding will help Teach For America-Hawai'i
31 to recruit high quality teachers and train them to be fully
32 prepared to enter Hawai'i classrooms, and will also help



1 subsidize the Hawai'i regional office's operating costs, which
2 are used to further support teachers over their two-year
3 commitment; and
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5 WHEREAS, the Legislature has demonstrated its support for
6 Teach For America-Hawai'i by appropriating \$165,000 in FY 2008;
7 and
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9 WHEREAS, there are currently 122 teachers, 17 percent of
10 whom are kama'āina, teaching in 39 schools across O'ahu and the
11 Big Island who are impacting over 10,000 students, as well as
12 over 100 Teach For America alumni living in Hawai'i, the
13 majority of whom remain in education-related jobs; and
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15 WHEREAS, Teach For America-Hawai'i is committed to serving
16 Hawai'i's most underserved children by placing teachers in high-
17 need areas, which include the Leeward Coast on O'ahu and the
18 Kau/Kea'au/Pāhoa districts on the Big Island; and
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20 WHEREAS, each year, the Teach For America-Hawai'i staff
21 focuses heavily on efforts to increase the number of Native
22 Hawaiian applicants, and their eventual participation into its
23 teacher corps; and
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25 WHEREAS, Teach For America-Hawai'i corps members and alumni
26 teach with the conviction that all children can achieve, and
27 work to ensure that every student has the opportunity to succeed
28 academically and in life, regardless of their economic
29 background; and
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31 WHEREAS, 100% of Hawai'i principals surveyed in 2009 stated
32 that Teach For America-Hawai'i teachers were above average or
33 average as compared to other teachers; and
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35 WHEREAS, research over time has conclusively shown that
36 Teach For America corps members' impact on their students'
37 achievement is equal to or greater than that of other new
38 teachers, and exceeds that of experienced and certified teachers
39 in the same schools; and
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41 WHEREAS, the majority of Teach For America-Hawai'i corps
42 members become involved in their school communities outside of
43 the classroom by coaching extracurricular activities, tutoring,
44 and taking on leadership roles; and



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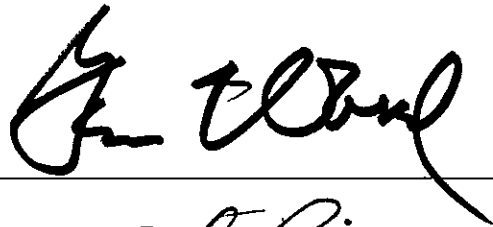
WHEREAS, Teach For America-Hawai'i is building an essential pipeline of leadership for our community by attracting future leaders to the field of education who, with the insight, conviction, and passion gained during their two-year teaching commitment, pursue leadership positions in education and other sectors and continue to pursue educational equity throughout their lives; and

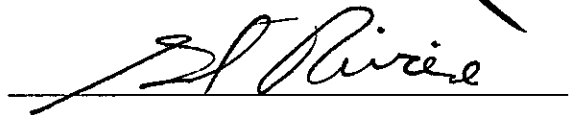
WHEREAS, ultimately, Teach For America-Hawai'i helps to address a long-standing issue of teacher placement in lower-income communities; now, therefore,

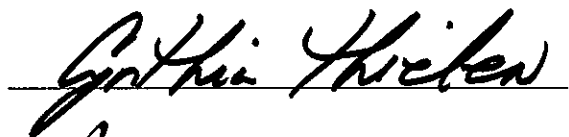
BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Twenty-sixth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2011, the Senate concurring, that Hawai'i's Congressional Delegation is requested to continue to support the Teach For America Program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the offices of U.S. Senator Daniel Inouye, U.S. Senator Daniel Akaka, U.S. Congresswoman Mazie Hirono and U.S. Congresswoman Colleen Hanabusa.


OFFERED BY:

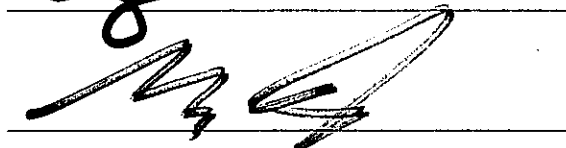


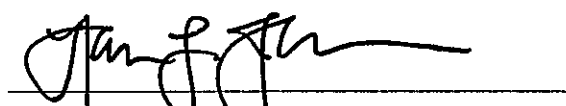


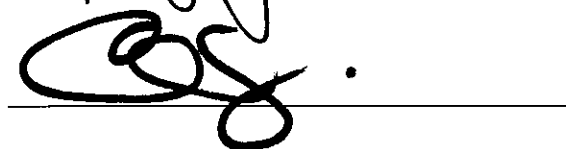












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