
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO EXPAND ITS PILOT PROJECTS
TO COOL HAWAII'S CLASSROOMS.

1 WHEREAS, for decades, many of Hawaii's students have been
2 saddled with unbearably hot classrooms, making it difficult for
3 students to concentrate on learning; and
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5 WHEREAS, with limited resources, the Department of
6 Education continues to struggle with finding ways to cool
7 classrooms; and
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9 WHEREAS, only 29 of the State's 258 public schools have
10 central air conditioning; and
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12 WHEREAS, new schools and new buildings on old campuses are
13 equipped with air conditioning, but installing air conditioning
14 in old schools can cost between \$3,000,000 and \$10,000,000;
15 thus, the State has installed air conditioning in only three
16 schools over the past decade; and
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18 WHEREAS, the cost of electricity further exacerbates the
19 overall cost of providing air conditioning in classrooms; and
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21 WHEREAS, as a result of the cost- and time-prohibitive
22 factors of providing air conditioning in Hawaii's classrooms,
23 students and faculty began to look for creative and inexpensive
24 solutions; and
25

26 WHEREAS, in 1998, the "Waianae Solution" was born,
27 beginning with a simple hole drilled through the wooden ceiling
28 of a portable classroom at Waianae High School; and



1 WHEREAS, students were able to turn the stifling situation
2 into a learning experience, running experiments to determine how
3 poorly ventilated and insulated the buildings were, while
4 testing possible solutions; and
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6 WHEREAS, the experiment led to public awareness of the heat
7 problem in classrooms, and the solar-power industry donated
8 photovoltaic-cell-powered roof vents worth approximately \$330
9 each to the Department of Education for testing in portables;
10 and
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12 WHEREAS, the Department of Education has acknowledged the
13 cost and slow pace of installing air conditioning, particularly
14 during difficult economic times, and has launched several pilot
15 projects in areas suffering from the most heat; and
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17 WHEREAS, solutions include the installation of various
18 heat-reduction modifications, including special lights, roofing,
19 and paint, as well as ceiling fans and insulation; and
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21 WHEREAS, these solutions are less costly and more eco-
22 friendly than air conditioning; and
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24 WHEREAS, the health, comfort, and learning conditions of
25 Hawaii's students should be made a priority; now, therefore,
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27 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
28 Twenty-sixth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
29 of 2011, the Senate concurring, that the Department of Education
30 is urged to expand its pilot projects to cool Hawaii's
31 classrooms; and
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33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is
34 requested to continue to encourage students, in an expeditious
35 manner, to be creative in finding solutions and using available
36 resources to cool classrooms; and
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38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is
39 requested to submit a report to the Legislature on its progress
40 in cooling Hawaii's classrooms no later than 20 days prior to
41 the convening of the Regular Session of 2012; and



H.C.R. NO. 282

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
2 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Superintendent of
3 Education.
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OFFERED BY:

J. Ollé
F. Baul
Allen A. Belotti
GS

MAR 16 2011

