
HOUSE RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND THE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO
ESTABLISH STEM/ROBOTICS CURRICULUM IN EVERY SCHOOL.

1 WHEREAS, the United States' ability to innovate and compete
2 in the global marketplace is directly related to the ability of
3 our educational system to prepare all of our children in
4 science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM), however, we
5 are rapidly losing our competitive edge within STEM subjects as
6 our students are failing to keep up with our international
7 peers; and
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9 WHEREAS, efforts to enhance STEM opportunities for hands-on
10 learning experiences are gaining momentum as people recognize
11 the need for students to develop twenty-first century skills;
12 and
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14 WHEREAS, the effort to improve STEM skills in Hawaii is
15 critical to address Hawaii's serious and ongoing challenges in
16 its educational performance and workforce development efforts;
17 and
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19 WHEREAS, these challenges limit the economic future and
20 professional opportunities for our youth, and limit our
21 statewide economic development opportunities; and
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23 WHEREAS, in the 2006 Program for International Student
24 Assessment (PISA), the average mathematics achievement of U.S.
25 students was higher than that of only five Organization for
26 Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) countries; and
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28 WHEREAS, here in Hawaii, studies have shown students to be
29 behind national averages, and the gap is widening; and
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31 WHEREAS, Waipahu High School, Henry Perrine Baldwin High
32 School, James Campbell High School, Kahuku High School, Kau High



1 and Pahala Elementary School, Olomana High and Intermediate
2 School, and Waialua High and Intermediate School are currently
3 using STEM curriculum as Hawaii Excellence through Science and
4 Technology Academies; and

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6 WHEREAS, 182 public, public charter, and private schools
7 have robotics teams in one or more of the six robotics programs,
8 accounting for 47 percent of Hawaii's schools; and

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10 WHEREAS, scholastic robotics programs have shown to
11 increase students' interest in STEM fields, develops leadership,
12 organization, communication, media and public relations skills,
13 promotes team work, time management, and problem solving-all
14 life skills that every employer is seeking in any young person,
15 regardless of profession; and

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17 WHEREAS, STEM curriculum encourages internships and
18 mentorships, which gives students a realistic understanding of
19 what the work place is like and what people in various fields
20 actually do on the job, including how people really interact and
21 accomplish goals in the workplace; and

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23 WHEREAS, this experience is invaluable in helping students
24 make education, career, and lifestyle decisions; and

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26 WHEREAS, internships and mentorships also provide added and
27 often essential value for Hawaii's business community, and
28 ultimately the economy as a whole; now, therefore,

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30 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
31 Twenty-sixth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
32 of 2011, that the Department of Education and the Board of
33 Education is urged to establish STEM/robotics curriculum in
34 every school; and

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36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that should the establishment of a
37 STEM/robotics curriculum of a particular school not be feasible,
38 the Department of Education and the Board of Education is urged
39 to establish STEM/robotics as an extracurricular activity; and

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H.R. NO. 15

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 2 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of The Board of
 3 Education and the Superintendent of the Department of Education.
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OFFERED BY:

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JAN 21 2011

