

MAR 10 2011

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO REPORT ON THE
FEASIBILITY OF INCLUDING ENVIRONMENTAL CURRICULA AT EACH
GRADE LEVEL.

1 WHEREAS, Hawaii's environment is unique, fragile, and of
2 critical importance to the overall well-being of the people and
3 wildlife of the State; and

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5 WHEREAS, in order to preserve this environment all
6 individuals and businesses in the state must make positive
7 choices when it comes to decisions that may impact the
8 environment; and

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10 WHEREAS, knowledge of the uniqueness and importance of
11 Hawaii's environment and awareness of the actions to take or
12 avoid to preserve the environment are essential for the
13 maintenance and preservation of the environment; and

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15 WHEREAS, in many instances damage to the environment is
16 incurred due to a lack of knowledge regarding the environmental
17 consequences of certain actions; and

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19 WHEREAS, inspiring positive behavior is most successful
20 when impressed upon people while they are young; and

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22 WHEREAS, it is the youth of today who will inherit the
23 world of tomorrow and will need knowledge not only to wrestle
24 with the environmental issues they inherit at that time, but
25 also to mitigate the impact of those issues by understanding
26 current environmental issues; and

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28 WHEREAS, knowledge is gained and retained most effectively
29 when consistently reinforced and expanded upon over a period of
30 time; and

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32 WHEREAS, Hawaii's public schools are in an ideal setting in
33 which to disseminate the knowledge and inspire the behavior
34 necessary to contribute effectively to the preservation of
35 Hawaii's environment; and



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WHEREAS, California has recently released the first state-approved K-12 environmental curriculum in the United States as a pilot program in nineteen districts statewide; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-sixth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2011, that the Department of Education is requested to study the feasibility of including grade appropriate environmental education curricula at each grade level; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a report to the Legislature regarding the feasibility of including grade appropriate environmental curricula at each grade level, including recommendations for legislation for implementation of environmental curricula, be submitted no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2013; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Superintendent of Education, the Chairperson of the Board of Education, and the Executive Director of the Charter School Administrative Office.

OFFERED BY: Mike Gallardo

