
HOUSE RESOLUTION

ENCOURAGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO INCLUDE IN THE SOCIAL STUDIES CURRICULUM THE POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, AND SOCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES AND LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, AND TRANSGENDER INDIVIDUALS.

1 WHEREAS, the State of Hawaii and the Department of
2 Education should be committed to educating Hawaii's youth about
3 diverse cultures and the vastness of the human condition in
4 preparing Hawaii's youth to be participating members of an equal
5 society; and

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7 WHEREAS, while the Department of Education's existing
8 content and performance standards for social studies include the
9 history of many minorities and subcultures, including Native
10 Americans, Native Hawaiians, African Americans, Japanese
11 Americans, and women, the standards fail to include the history
12 of individuals with disabilities and those who identify as
13 lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender; and

14
15 WHEREAS, federal census data estimates that nineteen
16 percent of the nation's population has a disability and the
17 National Survey of Sexual Health and Behavior estimates that
18 seven percent of adult women and eight percent of adult men
19 identify as gay, lesbian, or bisexual; and

20
21 WHEREAS, the use of derogatory terms aimed at individuals
22 with disabilities and those who identify as lesbian, gay,
23 bisexual, and transgender occurs in Hawaii's schools and
24 students need to know that these terms are discriminatory and
25 hurtful; and

26
27 WHEREAS, lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender students
28 are often verbally, physically, and emotionally harassed and
29 bullied at school because of their actual or perceived identity
30 and therefore report feeling depressed, isolated, suicidal, and
31 unsafe at school; and



1 WHEREAS, the State has an obligation to protect individuals
2 who are discriminated against; and

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4 WHEREAS, the governor of California signed the FAIR
5 Education Act into law on July 14, 2011, which requires the
6 inclusion in public school curriculum of the political,
7 economic, and social contributions of persons with disabilities
8 and lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender individuals to the
9 development of California and the United States; and

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11 WHEREAS, the implementation of a similar curriculum in the
12 State is consistent with Hawaii's effort to promote a more
13 supportive learning environment for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and
14 transgender students and students with disabilities; now,
15 therefore,

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17 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
18 Twenty-sixth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
19 of 2012, that this body encourages the Department of Education
20 to:

- 21
22 (1) Integrate into the social studies curriculum of the
23 State's public education system the political,
24 economic, and social contributions of persons with
25 disabilities and lesbian, gay, bisexual, and
26 transgender individuals;
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28 (2) Provide resources on such topics for complex areas,
29 individual schools, and educators to empower them to
30 implement age-appropriate content for students from
31 kindergarten through twelfth grade;
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33 (3) Train, support, and protect educators who integrate
34 such topics into school curriculum;
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36 (4) Prohibit material in textbooks or other instructional
37 material that perpetuates discriminatory stereotypes
38 and misinformation about individuals with disabilities
39 and lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender
40 individuals;



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- 1 (5) Adopt textbooks or other instructional materials that
- 2 include and fairly portray individuals with
- 3 disabilities and lesbian, gay, bisexual, and
- 4 transgender individuals; and
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- 6 (6) Discourage discrimination toward these groups in
- 7 public schools and at public school functions; and
- 8

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
10 Resolution be transmitted to the Superintendent of Education and
11 Chair of the Board of Education.

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OFFERED BY: T. Stepi b/r

FEB 29 2012

