
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND BOARD OF EDUCATION TO
INSTITUTE A GREEN HAWAII PROGRAM WITHIN THE PUBLIC SCHOOL
SYSTEM.

1 WHEREAS, caring for the environment can give youth a sense
2 of responsibility for those around them and for the good of the
3 community overall; and
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5 WHEREAS, a heightened sense of one's civic duties promotes
6 the greater well-being and spirit of cooperation in solving
7 common problems and mutual undertakings within communities; and
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9 WHEREAS, one of the ways youth can learn civic awareness is
10 through "green projects" which are tasks that promote malama
11 'aina (caring for the land); and
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13 WHEREAS, these tasks are doable by children and youth alike
14 to foster patience and delayed gratification that results in a
15 sense of accomplishment when they see the fruits of their labor
16 benefit their community; and
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18 WHEREAS, green projects teach other values such as
19 preservation and wise stewardship of natural resources, which
20 children and youth will need as adults in order to manage or
21 participate in decisions and actions concerning their civic
22 duties; and
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24 WHEREAS, recycling plastic and aluminum containers cleans
25 up the area for aesthetic improvement and provides a small
26 source of income for other student projects and needs of the
27 schools; and
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29 WHEREAS, grass and landscaping cuttings can be used as
30 mulch to cover the lawn to reduce irrigation demands and return
31 nutrients back to the soil on school property; and
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1 WHEREAS, vermi-composting provides a safer source of
2 fertilizer for organic school gardens; and
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4 WHEREAS, xeriscape designs incorporating the use of native
5 flora reduces irrigation demand and simultaneously conserves
6 precious freshwater resources; and
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8 WHEREAS, organic gardening teaches children and youth that
9 food comes out of the ground, introduces them to the vital
10 agriculture industry as a career, and fosters a respect for
11 agricultural endeavors; and
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13 WHEREAS, these projects in conservation and recycling can
14 also serve to help alleviate school budgets by reducing,
15 reusing, and conserving resources; raise funds for other student
16 projects; and teach students about budgeting in a demonstrable
17 way; now, therefore,
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19 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-sixth
20 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2012, the
21 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of
22 Education and Board of Education are requested to establish a
23 Green Hawaii program, under which all public schools, including
24 charter schools, are requested to perform at least five "Green
25 Hawaii" projects within each school year, beginning with the
26 school year 2015-2016; and
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28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
29 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Superintendent of
30 Education, Chairperson of the Board of Education, Executive
31 Director of the Charter School Administrative Office, and the
32 Chairperson of the Hawaii State Student Council.

