HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING A FINANCIAL AND MANAGEMENT AUDIT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.

WHEREAS, Hawaii's public education system has been criticized for its inadequate delivery of educational services and for poor student achievement; and

WHEREAS, the large bureaucracy of the Department of Education presents roadblocks that may prevent the Department of Education and the individual schools from successfully performing their duties and serving the needs of Hawaii's children; and

WHEREAS, during the 2009-2010 school year, the Department became the subject of local and national news when furloughs were imposed in the public schools, reducing the number of instructional days for students; and

WHEREAS, despite attempts to implement comprehensive reform in Hawaii's public schools, the Department of Education remains under close public scrutiny, both locally and nationally; and

WHEREAS, the public has raised many questions about the Department's operations, including its finances and management; and

WHEREAS, specific funds and programs of the Department of Education have been audited in recent years, but the last comprehensive audit of the Department of Education's entire organization, management processes, and personnel administration was conducted in 1973; and

WHEREAS, another review of the Department of Education's spending, administrative, and managerial practices is long overdue; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Twenty-seventh Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2013, the Senate concurring, that the Auditor is requested to perform a financial and management audit of the Department of Education that focuses on the departmental level; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Auditor is requested to include, as part of its audit, an analysis of the Department of Education's practices and procedures regarding:

(1) Budget;

(2) Procurement; and

(3) Vendors and contractors (e.g., continuing education providers, bus service, etc.); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Auditor is requested to submit a report of any findings and recommendations to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2014; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Auditor, the Chairperson of the Board of Education, and the Superintendent of Education.

OFFERED BY: Mele Chrose

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