HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO MEET WITH INTERESTED PARTIES TO EXAMINE THE FEASIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING A BOXING PILOT PROGRAM IN AT LEAST ONE OF HAWAII'S PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOLS.

WHEREAS, boxing is a popular and exciting sport; and

WHEREAS, boxing provides a full-body workout, serves as an outlet for stress, teaches self-defense skills, and can help with weight management; and

WHEREAS, boxing teaches children and young adults about hard work, dedication, and focus, all valuable skills that can be used throughout life; and

WHEREAS, boxing can also help to boost young athletes' self-esteem; and

WHEREAS, the rules and safety guidelines of professional boxing are different from the rules and safety guidelines of youth and amateur boxing; and

WHEREAS, the safety quidelines in youth and amateur boxing are strict, including but not limited to the requirement that athletes wear head gear, athletic cups, mouth guards, padding, and other protective equipment; and

WHEREAS, at least one study has found that there is no evidence of a strong association between amateur boxing and chronic traumatic brain injury; and

WHEREAS, high schools in California, Colorado, Michigan, Ohio, and New York have successful boxing programs or clubs; and

WHEREAS, currently young adults in Hawaii can participate in boxing only through private boxing gyms and facilities, which can be costly for young adults; and

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32 33 WHEREAS, Hawaii's students could benefit from having a boxing program within the public high school system; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Twenty-seventh Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2013, that the Department of Education is requested to meet with interested parties to examine the feasibility of establishing a boxing pilot program in at least one of Hawaii's public high schools; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Chair of the Board of Education, Superintendent of Education, Chair of the Hawaii State Boxing Commission, Hawaii High School Athletic Association, and Amateur Boxing Association.