

MAR 13 2013

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO INCORPORATE SUSTAINABILITY
EDUCATION INTO THE SCIENCE CURRICULUM OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

1 WHEREAS, the ability to support and sustain ourselves in
2 today's world requires an ability to adapt to global changes and
3 educate ourselves about the need to find the right balance of
4 growing our economy, keeping our land healthy, and preserving
5 our natural resources; and

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7 WHEREAS, sustainable use of resources and clean energy are
8 essential to Hawaii given its location in the middle of the
9 Pacific Ocean; and

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11 WHEREAS, Hawaii's current dependence on foreign oil and
12 non-domestic food threatens our ability to provide for
13 ourselves; and

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15 WHEREAS, approximately seventy-seven per cent of the
16 electricity consumed in Hawaii is generated by burning imported
17 oil and ninety per cent of the food consumed in the State is
18 imported; and

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20 WHEREAS, Senate Bill No. 937 (2013), currently being
21 considered by the Legislature, would establish a new branch in
22 the Department of Agriculture to increase food resiliency in the
23 State to address the risk of food shortages in the event of
24 natural disasters, economic disruptions, and other external
25 factors; and

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27 WHEREAS, the United States is falling behind in the rapidly
28 growing clean energy industry, and its educational system and
29 workforce are not prepared to compete on a global scale; and

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31 WHEREAS, the United States Department of Energy and
32 Department of Education, the United Nations Decade of Education



1 for Sustainable Development, and the Hawaii 2050 Sustainability
2 Plan, call for the values, activities, and principles inherently
3 linked to sustainability to be integrated into the educational
4 endeavors of our schools; and

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6 WHEREAS, sustainability education must incorporate the four
7 main areas of sustainability: food; waste; energy; and water;
8 and

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10 WHEREAS, the current science curriculum for public high
11 school students includes physical science, biological science,
12 earth and space science, physics, chemistry, environmental
13 science, marine science, plants and animals in Hawaii, human
14 physiology, zoology, and botany; and

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16 WHEREAS, the unique character and traditions of the State,
17 including the ahupuaa system, provide meaningful opportunities
18 to study and implement a sustainability education approach to
19 promote the Hawaiian culture while providing security for
20 generations of residents to come; and

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22 WHEREAS, sustainability education should be incorporated
23 into the current science courses and made available to all
24 public school students in Hawaii; now, therefore,

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26 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-seventh
27 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2013, the
28 House of Representatives concurring, that the Board of Education
29 is requested to incorporate sustainability education into the
30 science curriculum of public schools; and

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

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37 OFFERED BY: Jim

Paul P. ...
Henry Kohala