

FEB 28 2013

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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

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 persons with disabilities; and
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14 WHEREAS, federal census data estimates that nineteen
15 percent of the nation's population has a disability; and
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17 WHEREAS, the use of derogatory terms aimed at persons with
18 disabilities occurs in Hawaii's public schools and students need
19 to know that these terms are discriminatory and hurtful; and
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21 WHEREAS, persons with disabilities are often verbally,
22 physically, and emotionally harassed and bullied at school
23 because of their actual or perceived disability and therefore
24 report feeling depressed, isolated, suicidal, and unsafe at
25 school; and
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27 WHEREAS, the State has an obligation to protect persons who
28 are discriminated against; and
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30 WHEREAS, the Governor of the State of California signed the
31 FAIR Education Act into law on July 14, 2011, which requires the
32 inclusion in public school curriculum of the political,



1 economic, and social contributions of persons with disabilities
2 to the development of California and the United States; and
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4 WHEREAS, the implementation of a similar curriculum in
5 Hawaii is consistent with the State's effort to promote a more
6 supportive learning environment for students with disabilities;
7 now, therefore,
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9 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-seventh
10 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2013, the
11 House of Representatives concurring, that this body encourages
12 the Department of Education to:
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- 14 (1) Integrate into the social studies curriculum of the
15 State's public education system the political,
16 economic, and social contributions of persons with
17 disabilities;
- 18 (2) Provide resources on such topics for complex areas,
19 individual schools, and educators to empower them to
20 implement age-appropriate content for students from
21 kindergarten through twelfth grade;
- 22 (3) Train and support educators who integrate such topics
23 into school curriculum;
- 24 (4) Prohibit material in textbooks or other instructional
25 material that perpetuates discriminatory stereotypes
26 and misinformation about persons with disabilities;
- 27 (5) Adopt textbooks or other instructional materials that
28 include and fairly portray persons with disabilities;
29 and
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- 31 (6) Discourage discrimination toward persons with
32 disabilities in public schools and at public school
33 functions; and
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
2 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Superintendent of
3 Education and Chair of the Board of Education.
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OFFERED BY: Thomas Cunniff

Mark

John Hubbard

