

FEB 28 2013

SENATE RESOLUTION

SUPPORTING THE CREATION OF AN INSTITUTE BUILT AROUND ROBOTICS AND EXPLORATION SYSTEMS AND REQUESTING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM TO EMBRACE ROBOTICS AND EXPLORATION SYSTEMS EDUCATION.

1 WHEREAS, participation in robotics has resulted in Hawaii
2 students receiving millions of dollars in college scholarships
3 to pursue engineering, computer science, and other degrees and
4 has allowed Hawaii students to successfully participate in
5 internships with the National Aeronautics and Space
6 Administration (NASA), other government agencies, and private
7 industry; and

8
9 WHEREAS, Hawaii scholastic robotics began in 1999 with NASA
10 grants awarded to McKinley and Waialua High Schools to compete
11 in the FIRST robotics competition at the 2000 Silicon Valley
12 FIRST regional competition, with McKinley and Waialua High
13 Robotics Teams partnering to advance to the regional finals and
14 finish second in the forty-three team competition, starting a
15 tradition of excellence in Hawaii for robotic team competitions;
16 and

17
18 WHEREAS, from the two initial teams and one program, Hawaii
19 has now in excess of four hundred elementary, middle, and high
20 school teams competing in six different nationally or
21 internationally affiliated scholastic robotics programs, which
22 include the FIRST Robotics Competition, FIRST Lego League, VEX
23 Robotics, Botball, Underwater Remotely Operated Vehicles, and
24 Micro Robotics; and

25
26 WHEREAS, despite the proliferation of programs and teams,
27 less than five percent of Hawaii students have access to the
28 scholastic robotics programs due to a lack of mentors and
29 resources; and

30
31 WHEREAS, scholastic robotics is not just about building
32 robots, it is about building critical life skills in teamwork,
33 problem solving, time management, and effective communication,



1 as well as catalyzing interest in science, technology,
2 engineering, and math (STEM) career paths; and
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4 WHEREAS, the critical next step for scholastic robotics is
5 providing real world design challenges for the creative and
6 collective genius that exists in Hawaii's children; and
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8 WHEREAS, STEM education is a key priority of President
9 Obama's administration, including an ambitious agenda to move
10 American students to the top internationally in science and math
11 achievement over the next decade, supported by the \$70,000,000
12 National Robotics Initiative; and
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14 WHEREAS, the Next Generation Science Standards developed by
15 the National Research Council, National Science Teachers
16 Association, and American Association for the Advancement of
17 Science will include a mandate for kindergarten through twelfth
18 grade engineering education with robotics as an engaging tool to
19 address these new mandates; now, therefore,
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21 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-seventh
22 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2013,
23 that this body supports the creation of an institute built
24 around robotics and exploration systems in the areas of
25 aerospace, military, healthcare, medicine, and homecare
26 initiatives; and
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28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this body supports continued
29 robotics education in Hawaii and requests the University of
30 Hawaii System to embrace robotics and exploration systems
31 education as a need to be fulfilled for our local students to
32 advance the State's welfare in the future; and
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34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
35 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, President of the
36 University of Hawaii, University of Hawaii Chancellors, and Dean
37 of the University of Hawaii College of Engineering.
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OFFERED BY: Will Ezuro
Andrey Jh Michelle Sudani

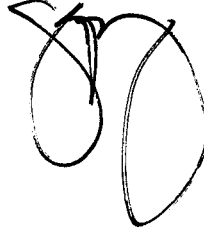


S.R. NO. 23

Clarence K. Fishburn

Proctor P.J.

Amid J. J.

A stylized handwritten signature or set of initials, possibly 'AJ' or similar, consisting of two large, overlapping loops.