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# HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO PROVIDE MORE TRANSPARENCY  
IN ITS MEETINGS.

1           WHEREAS, according to the Superintendent's 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual  
2 Report, in 2012, there were more than one hundred eighty  
3 thousand students enrolled in the public school system; and  
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5           WHEREAS, the Board of Education's mission is to "promote  
6 excellence and equity in Hawaii's public schools and enable all  
7 students to meet their own unique and varied potentials"; and  
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9           WHEREAS, the Board of Education is tasked with the  
10 responsibility to oversee and manage Hawaii's public educational  
11 system, as well as the development and implementation of  
12 statewide educational policies for Hawaii's students, while  
13 ultimately ensuring appropriate academic progress for every  
14 student; and  
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16           WHEREAS, the policies and programs that the Board of  
17 Education implements to carry out its mission has a major impact  
18 on students' education and future as they become the next  
19 generation of leaders and every person should have the  
20 opportunity to express their thoughts and concerns on matters  
21 that affect the State's public educational system; and  
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23           WHEREAS, in light of the importance of educational policy  
24 decisions on the State, citizens across the State deserve the  
25 opportunity to comment on and be informed of the policies and  
26 actions that affect the student's education; and  
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28           WHEREAS, printed material of the Board of Education  
29 meetings present only a limited view of the matters to be  
30 discussed and the business to be transacted at the meetings  
31 whereas audio or video coverage of a meeting captures the actual  
32 proceedings; and



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2 WHEREAS, people can effectively express their thoughts,  
3 ideas, and concerns when the board meeting is within their  
4 community; and

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6 WHEREAS, many parents, educators, staff, and members of the  
7 public are unable to attend board meetings that occur during the  
8 day for a number of reasons, such as work and other conflicting  
9 obligations and lack of transportation; and

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11 WHEREAS, because of the important role played by the Board  
12 of Education in ensuring that student educational standards are  
13 met, and the fact that it is a state entity and therefore  
14 subject to Hawaii's public records and open meetings laws, it is  
15 important that the Board of Education operate in a manner that  
16 is more transparent to the community; now, therefore,

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18 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
19 Twenty-seventh Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
20 Session of 2014, the Senate concurring, that the Board of  
21 Education is requested to provide more transparency in the  
22 conduct of its meetings, the way it notifies the public of its  
23 meetings, and the way testimony is submitted at its meetings;  
24 and

25  
26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education is  
27 requested to consider the following approaches to increasing the  
28 transparency of its operations:

- 29  
30 (1) Publish board members email addresses and make them  
31 available to the public; and  
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33 (2) Ensure greater public input by holding public meetings  
34 after regular work hours or on weekends when possible  
35 to accommodate people that may not be available to  
36 attend the meetings held earlier in the day; and  
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38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education is  
39 requested to consider broadening public access at its meetings  
40 by:

- 41  
42 (1) Holding its general business meetings in each county  
43 at least once a year; and  
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1 (2) Publishing more detailed and specific agenda items, as  
 2 well as an email address of an appropriate contact  
 3 person to ensure clarity and transparency; and  
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5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
 6 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the  
 7 Board of Education and the Superintendent of Education.  
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OFFERED BY:

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