
HOUSE RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO TAKE NECESSARY STEPS TO
REINFORCE INSTRUCTION REGARDING AMERICAN CIVICS.

1 WHEREAS, Hawaii's rate of voter participation is among the
2 lowest in the nation; and

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4 WHEREAS, voter and citizen participation is vital for
5 democracy to flourish now and in the future; and

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7 WHEREAS, low voter participation tends to indicate a lack
8 of interest or lack of knowledge about government; and

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10 WHEREAS, the subject of American civics is not strongly
11 emphasized in Hawaii's public school curriculum; and

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13 WHEREAS, a basic education in the history and origins of
14 our constitutional democracy is essential to understanding the
15 importance of our form of government and the importance of the
16 role the individual citizen plays in that government; and

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18 WHEREAS, American civics is the bedrock of this basic
19 education in government; and

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21 WHEREAS, the Hawaii State Constitution and state government
22 are modeled on the United States Constitution and government;
23 and

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25 WHEREAS, many students in Hawaii's public schools were born
26 overseas in nations with various forms of government and would
27 benefit from understanding the basics of American government;
28 and

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30 WHEREAS, intermediate school students in grades seven and
31 eight are typically in a phase of development where personal
32 independence and self-governance are important personal issues,
33 and they may therefore be particularly receptive to learning
34 about the broader application of these concepts; and

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H.R. NO. 27

1 WHEREAS, a strong academic program of American civics in
 2 public schools can only enhance the whole of free society in
 3 Hawaii and in individual students in a reciprocal way; and
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5 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
 6 Twenty-seventh Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
 7 Session of 2014, that the Department of Education is urged to
 8 emphasize and reinforce instruction regarding American civics;
 9 and
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11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is
 12 urged to afford public school students a strong foundation in
 13 American civics before they enter high school; and
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15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is
 16 urged to emphasize curriculum that includes the study of the
 17 Declaration of Independence as drafted by Thomas Jefferson in
 18 1776, the Constitution of the United States of America including
 19 the Bill of Rights, the history behind these documents, and an
 20 examination of why these documents are important to each person;
 21 and
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23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 24 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of
 25 Education and the Superintendent of Education.
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OFFERED BY:

Tom Welch B/R

FEB 18 2014

