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# SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO ENSURE THAT SPECIAL  
EDUCATION TEACHERS HAVE ADEQUATE TIME TO PLAN AND PREPARE  
INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION PROGRAMS FOR THEIR STUDENTS.

1           WHEREAS, special education services, including academic,  
2 speech-language, psychological, physical and occupational, and  
3 counseling accommodations, meet the unique needs of students  
4 with disabilities; and  
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6           WHEREAS, based on the various levels of students in their  
7 classes, special education teachers adapt education lessons in  
8 language, math, reading, and writing; teach basic skills in  
9 communication and literacy; plan, organize, and assign  
10 activities that are specific to each student's abilities;  
11 implement and update individualized education programs; assess  
12 students' performance, and track their progress and goals  
13 throughout the school year; and  
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15           WHEREAS, in a survey conducted in 2015 by the Hawaii State  
16 Teachers Association, seventy percent of special education  
17 teachers reported that they were not given adequate time to  
18 lesson plan or complete individualized education programs during  
19 the work day; and  
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21           WHEREAS, a decrease in the workload of special education  
22 teachers will give those teachers the ability to devote more  
23 time to preparing individualized education programs, leading to  
24 increased learning growth for special education students; now,  
25 therefore,  
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27           BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-eighth  
28 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2016,  
29 that the Department of Education is requested to ensure that, in  
30 addition to planning time and preparation periods specified in  
31 any collectively bargained agreement, special education teachers  
32 have at least forty hours per year to use, at the discretion of



1 the teacher, for the completion of individualized education  
2 programs; and

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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that during this additional  
5 preparation time, teachers should not be required to interact  
6 with students or perform other duties; and

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8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
9 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of  
10 Education and Superintendent of Education.

