

MAR 10 2017

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE STATE AND COUNTIES TO UTILIZE METRIC MEASUREMENTS
ALONGSIDE UNITED STATES CUSTOMARY MEASUREMENTS IN ALL
PUBLIC SIGNAGE.

1 WHEREAS, the metric system is the language of science,
2 medicine, international commerce, and most sports; and

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4 WHEREAS, the metric system is the most widely used system
5 of measurements in the world, having been officially adopted in
6 all but three countries worldwide; and

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8 WHEREAS, learning two measurement systems may be time-
9 consuming and confusing; and

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11 WHEREAS, it is easier to make conversions using the metric
12 system, requiring only the moving of the decimal point right or
13 left; and

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15 WHEREAS, unfamiliarity with the metric system can result in
16 costly and dangerous conversion errors; and

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18 WHEREAS, it is easier to conceptualize one gram versus
19 1/28th of an ounce, or one milliliter versus 1/29th of a fluid
20 ounce; and

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22 WHEREAS, use of the metric system is necessary for travel
23 outside of the United States; and

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25 WHEREAS, the economic benefits of global interoperability
26 greatly outweigh the challenges of converting to the metric
27 system; and

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29 WHEREAS, product design, manufacturing, marketing, and
30 labeling are all made more difficult by having to convert
31 measurements from one system of measurements to the other; and
32



S.C.R. NO. III

1 WHEREAS, switching to the metric system would likely result
2 in the creation of many jobs and enable the current and future
3 workforce of the United States to be better prepared to work in
4 the international economy; and

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6 WHEREAS, the effectiveness of the metric system can be seen
7 throughout the medical field, where its utilization has improved
8 services across the industry; and

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10 WHEREAS, the Institute for Safe Medication Practices' 2016-
11 2017 Targeted Medication Safety Best Practices for Hospitals
12 report urges the use of liquid medication dosing devices that
13 only display volume using the metric scale; and

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15 WHEREAS, the Institute for Safe Medication Practices has
16 received more than fifty reports of errors resulting from mix-
17 ups between metric milliliters (ml) and other, non-metric
18 measurements such as drops or teaspoons; and

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20 WHEREAS, some of these mistakes have led to injuries
21 requiring hospitalization; and

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23 WHEREAS, greater familiarity with the metric system of
24 measurements may have helped prevent these and other types of
25 errors; now, therefore,

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27 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-ninth
28 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2017, the
29 House of Representatives concurring, that the Legislature finds
30 that continued familiarity with and utilization of the metric
31 system is beneficial; and

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33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all state and county agencies
34 are requested to include the metric system of measurements
35 alongside United States customary measurements in all public
36 signage expressing speed and distance in order to help the
37 public gain familiarity with the metric system of measurement;
38 and

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40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
41 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor and to the
42 Mayor and Chairperson of the Council of each county, all of whom



1 are, in turn, requested to transmit copies to the head of each
2 department or agency, as the case may be, within their
3 respective jurisdictions.

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OFFERED BY:

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