

MAR 10 2017

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO COORDINATE WITH HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATIONS AND HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS IN HAWAII AND TO PARTNER WITH DEBATE ORGANIZATIONS IN ORGANIZING EVENTS FOR STUDENTS TO DEBATE ON CURRENT ISSUES AFFECTING HAWAII AND THE NATION.

1 WHEREAS, debate events provide an opportunity for
2 participants of diverse cultural, geographical, philosophical,
3 and political backgrounds to have meaningful discourse on
4 critical issues; and

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6 WHEREAS, debate events allow participants to present their
7 viewpoints and to address opposing arguments in a respectful
8 manner; and

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10 WHEREAS, debating helps participants increase their
11 knowledge, improve communication and public speaking skills,
12 foster analytical and critical thinking, and develop poise and
13 confidence; and

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15 WHEREAS, in addition to these assets and skills, students
16 involved in debate teams also acquire listening and
17 collaborative skills, the camaraderie of peers, and the
18 mentorship from debate teachers; and

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20 WHEREAS, these assets and skills can be applied to all
21 aspects of a student's interpersonal relationships, education,
22 and future professional career; and

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24 WHEREAS, students who debate on current issues are more
25 likely to understand the significance of, and consider solutions
26 and engage in civic activities related to, the issues that are
27 debated; and



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1 WHEREAS, Hawaii Speech League and Debate Hawaii host
2 debates whose participants are students and Hawaii's debate
3 community, respectively; and
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5 WHEREAS, Hawaii Speech League sponsors a diversified
6 program of speech activities, including debates, for public and
7 private intermediate and high school students; and
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9 WHEREAS, Debate Hawaii has held public debates at the
10 Hawaii State Capitol (Capitol) for members of Hawaii's debate
11 community to discuss various topics such as the "sit-lie ban",
12 the thirty-meter telescope, Syrian refugees coming to Hawaii,
13 pesticide buffer zones, and raising the general excise tax to
14 fund the Honolulu rail project; and
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16 WHEREAS, the House Committee on Legislative Management is
17 designated as the lead Committee in the coordination of requests
18 for educational debates; and
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20 WHEREAS, high school and college students would greatly
21 benefit from the opportunity to debate at the Capitol on current
22 issues affecting the State and the Nation, in a manner that is
23 similar to the public debates sponsored by Debate Hawaii; now,
24 therefore,
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26 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-ninth
27 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2017, the
28 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of
29 Education is requested to coordinate with the Hawaii Association
30 of Independent Schools, Hawaii State Public Charter School
31 Commission, Hawaii Homeschool Association, the University of
32 Hawaii System, Hawaii Pacific University, Brigham Young
33 University-Hawaii, and Chaminade University of Honolulu, and to
34 partner with Debate Hawaii, Hawaii Speech League, and the House
35 Committee on Legislative Management, in organizing events for
36 Hawaii public and private high school students and higher
37 education students to engage in the debate of current and
38 relevant issues, including legislative measures, that affect the
39 State and the Nation; and
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41 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the House Committee on
42 Legislative Management select a panel comprised of members from



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1 the Legislature, legislative aides, or community leaders before
2 whom the student participants will debate; and
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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the panel will choose the
5 topics on which the student participants debate; provided that
6 the topics are current and relevant to the State and Nation; and
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8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the debates be held at the
9 Capitol, and in a manner that follows the rules of the
10 Legislature; and
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12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
13 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Superintendent of
14 Education; Chair of the House Committee on Legislative
15 Management; Chairperson of the Board of Regents, University of
16 Hawaii; Executive Director of the Hawaii Association of
17 Independent Schools; Executive Director of the Hawaii State
18 Public Charter School Commission; Director of the Hawaii
19 Homeschool Association; President of Hawaii Pacific University;
20 President of Brigham Young University-Hawaii; President of
21 Chaminade University of Honolulu; President of the Hawaii Speech
22 League; and President of Debate Hawaii.
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OFFERED BY: _____

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'ASL', is written over a horizontal line.