
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

ENCOURAGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATIONS, AND HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS IN HAWAII IN PARTNERSHIP WITH DEBATE ORGANIZATIONS TO WORK WITH THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT TO PROMOTE 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



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 for members of Hawaii's debate community to
11 discuss various topics over the years; and
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13 WHEREAS, the House of Representatives Committee on
14 Legislative Management is designated as the lead committee in
15 the coordination of requests for educational debates; and
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17 WHEREAS, high school and college students would greatly
18 benefit from the opportunity to debate at the Hawaii State
19 Capitol on current issues affecting the State and the Nation, in
20 a manner that is similar to the public debates sponsored by
21 Debate Hawaii; and
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23 WHEREAS, organizations should promote more debate events as
24 resources allow; now, 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, Hawaii Association of Independent Schools, Hawaii
30 State Public Charter School Commission, Hawaii Homeschool
31 Association, the University of Hawaii System, Hawaii Pacific
32 University, Brigham Young University-Hawaii, and Chaminade
33 University of Honolulu, in partnership with Debate Hawaii and
34 Hawaii Speech League, are encouraged to work with the House of
35 Representatives Committee on Legislative Management to promote
36 events for Hawaii public and private high school students and
37 higher 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 of Representatives
42 Committee on Legislative Management select a panel comprised of



1 members from the Legislature, legislative aides, or community
2 leaders before 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 Hawaii State Capitol, and in a manner that follows the rules of
10 the 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; Chairperson of the House of Representatives Committee
15 on Legislative Management; Chairperson of the Board of Regents
16 and the President of the University of Hawaii; Executive
17 Director of the Hawaii Association of Independent Schools;
18 Executive Director of the Hawaii State Public Charter School
19 Commission; Director of the Hawaii Homeschool Association;
20 President of Hawaii Pacific University; President of Brigham
21 Young University-Hawaii; President of Chaminade University of
22 Honolulu; President of the Hawaii Speech League; and President
23 of Debate Hawaii.

