

MAR 10 2017

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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO DEVELOP AND ESTABLISH  
A LIVE, LEARN, WORK, AND PLAY PROGRAM TO PROMOTE WORKFORCE  
READINESS IN HAWAII'S STUDENTS THROUGH CAREER PIPELINE AND  
ACADEMY SCHOOL INITIATIVES.

1           WHEREAS, despite a state-wide high school graduation rate  
2 of eighty-one percent, only fifty-six percent of Hawaii's public  
3 school graduates continued on to post-secondary education in  
4 2015; and

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6           WHEREAS, there is a disconnect between the needs and  
7 expectations of today's employers and the current skills of the  
8 State's local workforce; and

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10          WHEREAS, industries in the State require employees with  
11 skills in coding, computer science, engineering, foreign  
12 language, and other technology-based jobs; and

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14          WHEREAS, the current low unemployment rate has contributed  
15 to employers finding it more difficult than normal to fill  
16 vacant positions because too few individuals have the right  
17 skills for the right openings; and

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19          WHEREAS, business leaders in Hawaii's expanding industries  
20 have reported that the reason it is often difficult to recruit  
21 local applicants who have the skills and experiences that the  
22 employer needs is that there are not enough skilled workers  
23 graduating; and

24  
25          WHEREAS, a gap exists between the skills that students in  
26 the State have upon graduation and the skills that employers in  
27 the State are seeking; and

28  
29          WHEREAS, a way to close this skills gap is to improve job  
30 training and more closely align education to employment; and  
31



1 WHEREAS, closing the skills gap for science, technology,  
2 engineering, and mathematics (STEM) jobs is extremely important,  
3 as STEM jobs are expected to grow 1.7 times faster than non-STEM  
4 jobs in the coming years; and

5  
6 WHEREAS, Honolulu has not been able to keep up with the  
7 rising demand for STEM professionals; and

8  
9 WHEREAS, according to a 2017 analysis of the best  
10 metropolitan areas for STEM professionals, Honolulu ranked  
11 ninety-five out of one hundred; and

12  
13 WHEREAS, high school students in Hawaii would benefit from  
14 precisely aligning curriculum to workforce readiness which  
15 depends upon close collaboration between the public school  
16 system, a community college, and one or more industry employers  
17 near the school complex to ensure they receive the industry-  
18 based skills and certification required for employment post-  
19 graduation and to live, learn, work, and play in the community;  
20 and

21  
22 WHEREAS, collaboration between educators and industry  
23 allows students to graduate from high school with a high school  
24 diploma and an industry-recognized associate's degree, as well  
25 as pre-apprenticeship certificates and other industry-recognized  
26 certificates; and

27  
28 WHEREAS, similar models recently established in  
29 Connecticut, Illinois, and New York are showing promise in  
30 graduating more high school students with career-ready skills to  
31 meet an industry's workforce needs; and

32  
33 WHEREAS, Hawaii has also experienced difficulties with  
34 "brain drain", the constant challenge encountered in the public  
35 and private sector of retaining Hawaii's highly-skilled or  
36 highly-intelligent workers or encouraging the return of those  
37 workers who left the State for school or work; and

38  
39 WHEREAS, a recent United States Census report found that  
40 ten thousand more people moved out of Hawaii to other states  
41 than moved in from other states - the biggest loss since 2010;  
42 and



1  
2 WHEREAS, many high school graduates in Hawaii go elsewhere  
3 to attend college or seek employment, resulting in the "brain  
4 drain" in the State; and

5  
6 WHEREAS, the Department of Education has established  
7 several options to prepare students for either a college or  
8 career pathway:

- 9  
10 (1) Academies or pathways for high school;  
11  
12 (2) Dual-credit programs enabling students to graduate  
13 high school with college credits; and  
14  
15 (3) Career and technical education programs; and

16  
17 WHEREAS, no high school or complex has developed and  
18 established an industry specific pipeline to prepare high school  
19 graduates with the skills needed to enter the workforce upon  
20 graduating high school; and

21  
22 WHEREAS, such programs may include certifications,  
23 licenses, foreign languages, and other credentials and skills  
24 that make the students career ready; and

25  
26 WHEREAS, labor market experts estimate that as many as  
27 twenty-five million, or forty-seven percent, of all new job  
28 openings from 2010 to 2020 will fall into the middle-skills  
29 range; and

30  
31 WHEREAS, shortages of workers for these types of jobs are  
32 already undermining competitiveness and causing firms to shift  
33 their operations abroad; and

34  
35 WHEREAS, in January 2016, the Governor announced a state-  
36 wide initiative to help prepare students for careers in fast-  
37 growing segments of the State's economy; and

38  
39 WHEREAS, the greater use of sector partnerships that  
40 develop and implement a clear pipeline toward careers for the  
41 State's kindergarten through twelfth grade students will allow



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1 Hawaii to lead the way in adding the "learn" to the concept of  
2 live, learn, work, and play; now, therefore,  
3

4 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-ninth  
5 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2017, the  
6 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of  
7 Education is requested to develop and establish a live, learn,  
8 work, and play program in Department schools throughout the  
9 State; and  
10

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the live, learn, work, and play  
12 program include a workforce readiness initiative coordinated  
13 with the University of Hawaii and industry employers near the  
14 school complex to:  
15

16 (1) Enable students to graduate with a high school diploma  
17 and an industry-recognized associate's degree;  
18

19 (2) Allow students to earn pre-apprenticeship certificates  
20 and other industry-recognized certificates; and  
21

22 (3) Integrate high school courses, college courses, and  
23 certificate programs that are informed by current and  
24 projected industry standards and focused on science,  
25 technology, engineering, and mathematics with  
26 mentoring, job shadowing, internships, pre-  
27 apprenticeship training, and other workplace education  
28 experiences; and  
29

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department explore  
31 expanding high school education to grade fourteen to allow for  
32 further integration of high school courses, college courses, and  
33 certificate programs as part of the live, learn, work, and play  
34 program; and  
35

36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the live, learn, work, and play  
37 program include a K-12 curriculum to career pipeline initiative  
38 to enable a student to pursue training and education throughout  
39 the student's time at a Department school complex, so that upon  
40 graduation, the student is prepared with the appropriate skills;  
41 certifications; licensing; or college credit, through a dual



1 credit program, to enable the student to enter the State's  
2 workforce; and

3  
4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the live, learn, work, and play  
5 program include an academy school initiative through which  
6 participating schools offer special instruction and programs not  
7 available elsewhere, primarily focusing on learning and skill  
8 development in students through the practical application of  
9 academic and technical skills and knowledge, and that schools  
10 participating in the initiative:

- 11
- 12 (1) Enroll any student who resides within the school's  
13 geographic service area pursuant to section 302A-1143,  
14 Hawaii Revised Statutes;
  - 15
  - 16 (2) Enroll all students from outside the school's  
17 geographic service area who submit an application,  
18 unless the number of students who submit an  
19 application exceeds the capacity of a program, class,  
20 grade level, or building;
  - 21
  - 22 (3) Determine whether capacity is sufficient to enroll all  
23 students, and if not, then use a lottery system to  
24 select students described in paragraph (2) who have  
25 submitted a timely application; and
  - 26
  - 27 (4) Give an enrollment preference to students enrolled in  
28 the school during the previous school year; and
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30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is  
31 requested to submit a report on the progress of establishing and  
32 developing the live, learn, work, and play program, including  
33 any proposed legislation necessary to implement any part of the  
34 program, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to  
35 the convening of the Regular Session of 2018; and

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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
2 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the  
3 Board of Education, Superintendent of Education, and Chairperson  
4 of the Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii.  
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OFFERED BY:

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