

MAR 10 2017

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# SENATE 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  
14

15           WHEREAS, unfamiliarity with the metric system can result in  
16 costly and dangerous conversion errors; and  
17

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  
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33           WHEREAS, switching to the metric system would likely result  
34 in the creation of many jobs and enable the current and future



1 workforce of the United States to be better prepared to work in  
2 the international economy; and

3  
4 WHEREAS, the effectiveness of the metric system can be seen  
5 throughout the medical field, where its utilization has improved  
6 services across the industry; and

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8 WHEREAS, the Institute for Safe Medication Practices' 2016-  
9 2017 Targeted Medication Safety Best Practices for Hospitals  
10 report urges the use of liquid medication dosing devices that  
11 only display volume using the metric scale; and

12  
13 WHEREAS, the Institute for Safe Medication Practices has  
14 received more than fifty reports of errors resulting from mix-  
15 ups between metric milliliters (ml) and other, non-metric  
16 measurements such as drops or teaspoons; and

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18 WHEREAS, some of these mistakes have led to injuries  
19 requiring hospitalization; and

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

24  
25 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-ninth  
26 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2017,  
27 that this body finds that continued familiarity with and  
28 utilization of the metric system is beneficial; and

29  
30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all state and county agencies  
31 are requested to include the metric system of measurements  
32 alongside United States customary measurements in all public  
33 signage expressing speed and distance in order to help the  
34 public gain familiarity with the metric system of measurement;  
35 and

36  
37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
38 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor and to the Mayor and  
39 Chairperson of the Council of each county, all of whom are, in  
40 turn, requested to transmit copies to the head of each  
41 department or agency, as the case may be, within their  
42 respective jurisdictions.



S.R. NO. 49

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OFFERED BY:

Kal Rhoads

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Will Zuo

