

MAR 10 2017

SENATE 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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29 WHEREAS, Hawaii Speech League and Debate Hawaii host
30 debates whose participants are students and Hawaii's debate
31 community, respectively; and



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



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2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the debates be held at the
3 Capitol, and in a manner that follows the rules of the
4 Legislature; and

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6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
7 Resolution be transmitted to the Superintendent of Education;
8 Chair of the House Committee on Legislative Management;
9 Chairperson of the Board of Regents, University of Hawaii;
10 Executive Director of the Hawaii Association of Independent
11 Schools; Executive Director of the Hawaii State Public Charter
12 School Commission; Director of the Hawaii Homeschool
13 Association; President of Hawaii Pacific University; President
14 of Brigham Young University-Hawaii; President of Chaminade
15 University of Honolulu; President of the Hawaii Speech League;
16 and President of Debate Hawaii.

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OFFERED BY: _____

A large, bold, handwritten signature in black ink is written over a horizontal line. The signature appears to be the initials 'BLS'.