

MAR 10 2017

SENATE 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

5
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

9
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

13
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

18
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
32 WHEREAS, closing the skills gap for science, technology,
33 engineering, and mathematics (STEM) jobs is extremely important,



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1 as STEM jobs are expected to grow 1.7 times faster than non-STEM
2 jobs in the coming years; and

3
4 WHEREAS, Honolulu has not been able to keep up with the
5 rising demand for STEM professionals; and

6
7 WHEREAS, according to a 2017 analysis of the best
8 metropolitan areas for STEM professionals, Honolulu ranked
9 ninety-five out of one hundred; and

10
11 WHEREAS, high school students in Hawaii would benefit from
12 precisely aligning curriculum to workforce readiness which
13 depends upon close collaboration between the public school
14 system, a community college, and one or more industry employers
15 near the school complex to ensure they receive the industry-
16 based skills and certification required for employment post-
17 graduation and to live, learn, work, and play in the community;
18 and

19
20 WHEREAS, collaboration between educators and industry
21 allows students to graduate from high school with a high school
22 diploma and an industry-recognized associate's degree, as well
23 as pre-apprenticeship certificates and other industry-recognized
24 certificates; and

25
26 WHEREAS, similar models recently established in
27 Connecticut, Illinois, and New York are showing promise in
28 graduating more high school students with career-ready skills to
29 meet an industry's workforce needs; and

30
31 WHEREAS, Hawaii has also experienced difficulties with
32 "brain drain", the constant challenge encountered in the public
33 and private sector of retaining Hawaii's highly-skilled or
34 highly-intelligent workers or encouraging the return of those
35 workers who left the State for school or work; and

36
37 WHEREAS, a recent United States Census report found that
38 ten thousand more people moved out of Hawaii to other states
39 than moved in from other states - the biggest loss since 2010;
40 and

41



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

38 WHEREAS, the greater use of sector partnerships that
39 develop and implement a clear pipeline toward careers for the
40 State's kindergarten through twelfth grade students will allow
41 Hawaii to lead the way in adding the "learn" to the concept of
42 live, learn, work, and play; now, therefore,



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1
2 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-ninth
3 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2017,
4 that the Department of Education is requested to develop and
5 establish a live, learn, work, and play program in Department
6 schools throughout the State; and
7

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

- 13 (1) Enable students to graduate with a high school diploma
14 and an industry-recognized associate's degree;
15
- 16 (2) Allow students to earn pre-apprenticeship certificates
17 and other industry-recognized certificates; and
18
- 19 (3) Integrate high school courses, college courses, and
20 certificate programs that are informed by current and
21 projected industry standards and focused on science,
22 technology, engineering, and mathematics with
23 mentoring, job shadowing, internships, pre-
24 apprenticeship training, and other workplace education
25 experiences; and
26

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

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



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

- 8
- 9 (1) Enroll any student who resides within the school's
 10 geographic service area pursuant to section 302A-1143,
 11 Hawaii Revised Statutes;
 - 12
 - 13 (2) Enroll all students from outside the school's
 14 geographic service area who submit an application,
 15 unless the number of students who submit an
 16 application exceeds the capacity of a program, class,
 17 grade level, or building;
 - 18
 - 19 (3) Determine whether capacity is sufficient to enroll all
 20 students, and if not, then use a lottery system to
 21 select students described in paragraph (2) who have
 22 submitted a timely application; and
 - 23
 - 24 (4) Give an enrollment preference to students enrolled in
 25 the school during the previous school year; and
 - 26

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is
 28 requested to submit a report on the progress of establishing and
 29 developing the live, learn, work, and play program, including
 30 any proposed legislation necessary to implement any part of the
 31 program, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to
 32 the convening of the Regular Session of 2018; and

33

34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 35 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of
 36 Education, Superintendent of Education, and Chairperson of the
 37 Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii.

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 40 OFFERED BY:

[Handwritten signature]
Michelle Sudani

