
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS TO
EVALUATE THE POTENTIAL IMPACTS OF MANDATING LICENSURE OF
ALL PRIVATE SCHOOLS IN THE STATE.

1 WHEREAS, prior to June 1995, private schools in the State
2 were licensed by the Department of Education; and
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4 WHEREAS, Act 188, Session Laws of Hawaii 1995 (Act 188) was
5 enacted, which repealed the law that gave the Department of
6 Education responsibility for both the licensing of private
7 schools and the certification of private school teachers; and
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9 WHEREAS, subsequently, a Task Force on Private School
10 Governance was established to consider the implications of Act
11 188 and to develop a plan for private school self-regulation;
12 and
13

14 WHEREAS, the Hawaii Council of Private Schools was formed
15 to implement provisions of the plan and became the entity
16 responsible for implementing a plan for private school self-
17 regulation, and now performs the functions and assumes the
18 responsibilities of the Department of Education for the
19 licensing of all private schools in the State; and
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21 WHEREAS, the Hawaii Council of Private Schools approves
22 private schools offering kindergarten through grade 12 that meet
23 the standards established by the Council, as well as approves
24 accrediting associations that meet Council requirements for
25 accrediting schools offering preschool through grade 12 and
26 serves as a liaison with the Department of Education on issues
27 of private school quality and accountability; and
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29 WHEREAS, while registration of private schools in the State
30 is required, the licensing and accreditation of private schools
31 are voluntary; and



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1 WHEREAS, to open a private school, the only requirement is
 2 a registration requirement: an operator of a private school
 3 must obtain a charter from the Department of Commerce and
 4 Consumer Affairs and a general excise tax license; and
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6 WHEREAS, not all private schools are licensed by the Hawaii
 7 Council of Private Schools or by another entity; now, therefore,
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9 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
 10 Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
 11 of 2018, that the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs is
 12 requested to evaluate the potential impacts of mandating
 13 licensure of all private schools in the State; and
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15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Commerce and
 16 Consumer Affairs is requested to submit its findings and
 17 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the
 18 Legislature no later than twenty days before the convening of
 19 the Regular Session of 2019; and
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21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 22 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Commerce and
 23 Consumer Affairs, Superintendent of Education, Executive
 24 Director of the Hawaii Council of Private Schools, and Executive
 25 Director of the Hawaii Association of Independent Schools.
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OFFERED BY:

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