

MAR - 6 2020

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, IN COLLABORATION WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII, DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS, AND DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM, DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT A K-12 CURRICULUM-TO-CAREER PIPELINE INITIATIVE.

1 WHEREAS, there is a disconnect between the needs and
2 expectations of today's employers and the skills of the State's
3 workforce; and

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5 WHEREAS, industries in the State increasingly require
6 employees with technology-based skills such as computer science
7 and coding and engineering, and second language skills; and

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9 WHEREAS, the current low unemployment rate has made it
10 difficult to fill technology-based positions, and business and
11 education groups report that few individuals in the State have
12 the necessary job skills for available job openings; and

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14 WHEREAS, closing the skills gap for science, technology,
15 engineering, and mathematics positions is extremely important,
16 as jobs in these sectors are expected to grow 1.7 times faster
17 than other jobs in the coming years; and

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19 WHEREAS, Honolulu has not been able to keep up with the
20 rising demand for science, technology, engineering, and
21 mathematics professionals, and according to a 2018 analysis of
22 the best metropolitan areas for these professionals, Honolulu
23 ranked eighty-second out of one hundred; and

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25 WHEREAS, Hawaii has also experienced difficulty retaining
26 highly-skilled workers in the State, and a recent United States
27 Census report found that more than thirteen thousand people
28 moved out of Hawaii than moved in from other states; and



