

MAR 03 2020

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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO MANDATE CLIMATE CHANGE  
CURRICULUM IN ALL PUBLIC SCHOOLS NO LATER THAN SCHOOL YEAR  
2021-2022.

1           WHEREAS, Hawai'i has maintained a consistent policy,  
2 community, and cultural agenda to protect our environment and  
3 address climate change; and  
4

5           WHEREAS, in 2015, Hawai'i was the first state to set a one  
6 hundred per cent renewable energy standard, the most aggressive  
7 clean energy goal in the nation; and  
8

9           WHEREAS, in 2017, Hawai'i also led the nation by enacting  
10 legislation to align with the Paris Agreement; and  
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12           WHEREAS, in 2018, Hawai'i became the first state to ban  
13 pesticides containing chlorpyrifos to protect the health of our  
14 children, and the first in the world to ban sunscreens  
15 containing chemicals harmful to our coral reefs; and  
16

17           WHEREAS, Hawai'i, as one of the most isolated island  
18 communities in the world is susceptible to climate change  
19 impacts in weather change, sea level rise, and natural disasters  
20 that can affect critical infrastructure and local economy; and  
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22           WHEREAS, a global forecast of sea level rise is an average  
23 of 1.8 millimeters per year, but the Kahului, Maui forecast is  
24 higher at 2.1 millimeters a year; and  
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26           WHEREAS, more than seventy per cent of Kaua'i's and Maui's  
27 beaches have been affected due to chronic erosion over the last  
28 century, according to the 2016 United States Environmental  
29 Protection Agency report on "What Climate Change Means for  
30 Hawai'i"; and



1  
2 WHEREAS, climate change is a borderless and  
3 intergenerational crisis, with diverse and far-reaching impacts  
4 across the globe and human activities are irreversibly changing  
5 the environment in which we exist requiring immediate and  
6 collective action on climate change; and  
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8 WHEREAS, climate change is a complex challenge that spans  
9 local, regional, and global impacts and will require diverse  
10 problem-solvers from scientific, cultural, and civic  
11 perspectives to seek relevant solutions; and  
12

13 WHEREAS, the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals  
14 and Paris Agreement have identified education as a key component  
15 of the global response to climate change; and  
16

17 WHEREAS, many careers that help present solutions to  
18 climate change are strongly STEM-related (Science, Technology,  
19 Engineering, and Mathematics); and  
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21 WHEREAS, Hawai'i leads the nation in the proportion of STEM  
22 jobs that require a postsecondary degree (ninety-six per cent)  
23 according to a 2018 Georgetown University report on STEM  
24 education and workforce development; now, therefore,  
25

26 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirtieth Legislature  
27 of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2020, the House of  
28 Representatives concurring, that the Department of Education is  
29 urged to mandate a climate change curriculum in all public  
30 schools by no later than school year 2021-2022; and  
31

32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that climate change curriculum be  
33 included in the Department of Education's 2030 Promise Plan  
34 under School Design where "Students will be immersed in  
35 excellent learning environments that are thoughtfully designed  
36 around community's power to contribute to a thriving,  
37 sustainable Hawai'i"; and  
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39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
40 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, President  
41 of the Senate, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Chair of  
42 the Board of Trustees of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, Chair



# S.C.R. NO. 58

1 of the Board of Education, Superintendent of Education, Chief  
2 Resiliency Officer of the City and County of Honolulu Office of  
3 Climate Change, Sustainability, and Resiliency, University of  
4 Hawai'i Director of Sustainability, and Chief Executive Officer  
5 of the Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement.

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