HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE CREATION OF A SAFE GRADUATION TASK FORCE.

WHEREAS, high school graduation ceremonies are landmark events in the lives of students and parents; and

WHEREAS, graduation ceremonies serve as both celebrations of achievement and marks of advancement in students' lives; and

WHEREAS, in the last year, the Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic has constrained or cancelled graduation ceremonies at all levels due to restrictions on public gatherings; and

WHEREAS, successful public health measures, such as testing, contact tracing, mask wearing, social distancing, and vaccination, are now allowing the government to plan for increased gathering and the reopening of public facilities; and

WHEREAS, as a result of these measures, Hawaii may be approaching herd immunity by late spring or early summer 2021; and

WHEREAS, allowing high schools to begin planning for spring and summer graduation ceremonies would have both practical and psychological benefits for Hawaii's families and local communities; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Thirty-first Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2021, the Senate concurring, that the Office of the Lieutenant Governor is urged to convene a task force to establish procedures and guidelines for high schools and other educational institutions to follow to plan safe graduation ceremonies; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the task force are recommended to include representatives from the Department of Education and Department of Health; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this 6 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Chairperson of the Board of Education, and Director of Health.

OFFERED BY: RIME

FEB 1 6 2021