HOUSE RESOLUTION

URGING THE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO CONSIDER HAWAII RESIDENTS WITH EXPERIENCE SERVING IN THE POSITION OF TEACHER OR HIGHER IN HAWAII'S PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM AS PART OF THE QUALIFIED CANDIDATE POOL TO SERVE AS SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION OF HAWAII'S PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM.

WHEREAS, on March 9, 2021, Superintendent Christina Kishimoto announced that she will not be seeking a renewal of her contract as Superintendent of Education of Hawaii's public school system; and

WHEREAS, Superintendent Christina Kishimoto's term as Superintendent of Education ends on July 30, 2021; and

WHEREAS, as the chief executive officer of Hawaii's public school system, the Superintendent of Education's responsibilities are vast, including serving as an instructional leader and administering programs of education and public instruction throughout the State; and

WHEREAS, the search for a new Superintendent of Education is a rigorous and extensive process to enable the Board of Education to appoint a leader to head the Department of Education, the only statewide public school district in the nation, that comprises fifteen complex areas and two hundred fifty-seven public schools and about one hundred eighty thousand students; and

WHEREAS, the responsibilities of the Superintendent of Education include: administering education at the primary and secondary school levels; adult education; school library services; health education and instruction, excluding dental health treatment; special education and Title I funded programs at the prekindergarten level; and other programs as established by law; and

WHEREAS, the appointment of a Superintendent of Education to head the Department of Education is time-critical, especially given the educational, health, fiscal, and other impacts of the coronavirus on the education of students; and

WHEREAS, the responsibilities of the Superintendent of Education is evermore important as the State seeks to safely reopen schools and lead Hawaii's public school system out of this pandemic and into the future; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education's vision and direction for the Department of Education are factors in determining the necessary qualifications, experience, knowledge, focus, and attributes of qualified applicants to be considered for a new Superintendent of Education to lead Hawaii's public school system; and

WHEREAS, Hawaii residents, including individuals from Hawaii's public school system, are integral to creating a pool of qualified applicants and candidates who possess the requisite organizational and leadership skills and vision to lead the Department of Education and promote and sustain instructional programs conducive to student learning and achievement and staff professional growth; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Thirty-first Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2021, that the Board of Education is urged to consider Hawaii residents with experience serving in the position of teacher or higher in Hawaii's public school system as part of the qualified candidate pool to serve as Superintendent of Education of Hawaii's public school system; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of Education.