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# HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO REPORT TO THE  
LEGISLATURE ON THE NUMBER OF PUBLIC SCHOOL PLAYGROUNDS THAT  
INCLUDE PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT ACCESSIBLE TO STUDENTS WITH  
PHYSICAL, INTELLECTUAL, OR DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES.

1           WHEREAS, playgrounds provide students with opportunities to  
2 socialize and engage in physical activity; and

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4           WHEREAS, playgrounds benefit child development in a variety  
5 of ways beyond physical wellness, such as expanding social,  
6 emotional, and imaginative skills; increasing confidence;  
7 improving coordination; and advancing critical thinking and  
8 problem-solving capabilities; and

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10           WHEREAS, however, traditional playground equipment is often  
11 inaccessible to children with disabilities, which deprives  
12 children with disabilities of the same benefits their peers  
13 without disabilities enjoy; and

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15           WHEREAS, there are numerous benefits of accessible and  
16 inclusive playgrounds, including providing recreation for  
17 students with disabilities, enabling them to socialize and make  
18 new friends, and help their peers without disabilities learn to  
19 understand differences; and

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21           WHEREAS, in December 2022, the Department of Education  
22 announced an \$18,000,000 partnership with a nonprofit to improve  
23 and replace public school playground equipment across the State;  
24 and

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26           WHEREAS, as part of this initiative, the Department is  
27 aiming to repair, replace, or add approximately one hundred  
28 playgrounds across the State; and

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1 WHEREAS, creating an inclusive playground environment for  
2 all children in the State's public schools is critical to  
3 ensuring all students get a chance to benefit from unstructured  
4 play; and

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6 WHEREAS, identifying how many playgrounds across the  
7 Department's public schools and charter school are accessible to  
8 students with physical, intellectual, or developmental  
9 disabilities is an important first step toward this goal; now,  
10 therefore,

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12 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
13 Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
14 Session of 2023, the Senate concurring, that the Department of  
15 Education is requested to report to the Legislature on the  
16 number of public school playgrounds that include playground  
17 equipment accessible to students with physical, intellectual, or  
18 developmental disabilities; and

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20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the report is requested to  
21 include:

- 22  
23 (1) The name and location of each public school whose  
24 playground includes accessible playground equipment;  
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26 (2) The name and location of each public school that has  
27 been identified as part of the Department of  
28 Education's initiative to repair, replace, or add  
29 playgrounds; and  
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31 (3) Any opportunities to construct new accessible  
32 playground equipment or convert existing playground  
33 equipment as part of this initiative; and  
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35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is  
36 requested to submit its report to the Legislature no later than  
37 twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of  
38 2025; and  
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40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
41 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the  
42 Board of Education and Superintendent of Education.



# H.C.R. NO. 147

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OFFERED BY:

*Elle Lehman*

MAR 10 2023

