

MAR 10 2023

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO REPORT ON WAYS TO INCREASE
ACCESS TO EXTENDED LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES OR COURSE CREDITS
FOR NON-TRADITIONAL AND EXTERNAL LEARNING EXPERIENCES.

1 WHEREAS, the nation's public education system is undergoing
2 a period of intense change and rapid evolution in the aftermath
3 of the coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic and as digital demands
4 and access take on a larger role in everyday life; and

5
6 WHEREAS, the traditional curriculum and credit system upon
7 which a high school diploma is based, with a primary focus on
8 the "four core" subjects of English language arts, mathematics,
9 social studies, and science, has not been substantially modified
10 in several decades; and

11
12 WHEREAS, innovative states across the country, including
13 Colorado, Connecticut, and New Hampshire, among others, are
14 exploring ways to revamp public education with more meaningful,
15 personalized, and high-leverage learning opportunities commonly
16 referred to as expanded or extended learning opportunities,
17 which offer students credit toward graduation upon completion of
18 out-of-school programs; and

19
20 WHEREAS, the purpose of extended learning opportunities is
21 to ensure that learning is not confined to the four walls of a
22 classroom, the pages of a textbook, and non-differentiated
23 curriculum, but is expanded to include unique learning programs
24 that will instill skills in students that transcend the
25 classroom; and

26
27 WHEREAS, extended learning opportunities may be implemented
28 through internships, apprenticeships, capstones, independent
29 study, online coursework, community service, work-based learning
30 programs, and other specialized venues; and
31



1 WHEREAS, extended learning opportunities are typically
2 designed to award students credits toward a high school diploma
3 upon completion of a learning program and its corresponding
4 competency-based assessment, which are meant to highlight the
5 acquisition of life skills and professional skills that will
6 serve students through the rest of their educational journey and
7 into their career; and

8
9 WHEREAS, ensuring that all students in Hawaii have access
10 to quality extended learning opportunities has the capacity to
11 generate a level of engagement in students that will better
12 prepare them for life after high school graduation and their
13 chosen career paths; and

14
15 WHEREAS, extended learning opportunities fit well within
16 Hawaii's cultural context, as they align with the 'Ōlelo No'eau
17 of "A'oha pau ka 'ike i ka hālau ho'okahi", translated as "All
18 knowledge is not learned in just one school"; and

19
20 WHEREAS, providing extended learning opportunities
21 demonstrates the importance of giving Hawaii's students options
22 to learn from many different sources and in many different ways,
23 including 'āina-based education; and

24
25 WHEREAS, Hawaii is home to numerous employers and more than
26 six thousand nonprofit organizations that can serve as extended
27 learning opportunity resources; and

28
29 WHEREAS, Hawaii offers flexibility for extended learning
30 opportunities through the Alternative Learning Programs Branch
31 at the Department of Education, which provides statewide support
32 to schools, complex areas, and districts for the development,
33 maintenance, and enhancement of Alternative Learning Programs,
34 Services, and Supports for at-promise students, for whom the
35 traditional model of education has not worked; and

36
37 WHEREAS, many other students may struggle with the
38 traditional model of teaching and learning, but have been
39 ineligible for alternative learning programs; and

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41 WHEREAS, improving access to extended learning
42 opportunities in Hawaii will help to address recent research



1 findings from the Yale Center for Emotional Intelligence, which
2 reports that many students across the country are disengaged
3 from their learning and feel they are not experiencing
4 meaningful learning opportunities or connections; now,
5 therefore,

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7 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second
8 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2023,
9 that the Board of Education is requested to report on ways to
10 increase access to extended learning opportunities or course
11 credits for non-traditional and external learning experiences;
12 and

13
14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education's report
15 is requested to:

- 16
17 (1) Identify the number of students enrolled in
18 Alternative Learning Programs, Services, and Supports
19 programs in the 2022-2023 school year;
20
21 (2) Recommend a process by which all public school
22 students can enroll in credit-bearing extended
23 learning opportunities;
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25 (3) Recommend a process by which community organizations
26 can register to offer extended learning opportunity
27 programs; and
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29 (4) Recommend necessary changes to Board of Education
30 policies that will enable access to extended learning
31 opportunities, such as Board Policy 105-10, relating
32 to alternative programs and services for secondary
33 students; and
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35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education is
36 requested to submit a report of its findings and
37 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the
38 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
39 the Regular Session of 2024; and
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
2 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Chairperson of the
3 Board of Education, and Superintendent of Education.
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OFFERED BY: *D.D. S.C. Fish-Gama*

