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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE STATE FOUNDATION ON CULTURE AND THE ARTS TO CONVENE A  
TASK FORCE TO RESEARCH AND DEVELOP A PLAN TO EXPAND ACCESS  
TO CHESS AS A COMPETITIVE SPORT.

1           WHEREAS, chess is a game of strategy, intellect, critical  
2 thinking, and problem-solving, and is played regularly by over  
3 six hundred million people worldwide; and  
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5           WHEREAS, the global chess industry is estimated to be  
6 valued at more than \$2,110,000,000, and is estimated to expand  
7 to \$2,600,000,000 by 2027; and  
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9           WHEREAS, beyond entertainment, chess has been a symbol of  
10 diplomacy, fostering connections between nations, and is  
11 recognized as a sport by the Olympics; and  
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13           WHEREAS, many of the strategies that are involved in chess  
14 are complex mathematical algorithms that children understand and  
15 decipher naturally; and  
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17           WHEREAS, chess brings out latent abilities not always  
18 reached by traditional educational means by promoting logical  
19 thinking, instilling a sense of self-confidence, and improving  
20 communication and pattern recognition skills; and  
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22           WHEREAS, children who play chess are introduced to basic  
23 algebraic notations that increase their concentration and  
24 familiarity with the subject, making them more efficient  
25 learners of mathematics; and  
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27           WHEREAS, in states where chess is offered widely in  
28 schools, students exhibit excellence in the ability to recognize  
29 complex patterns and consequently excel in math and science; and  
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1 WHEREAS, considering chess as a competitive sport enables  
2 schools to organize formal competitions and provide resources  
3 similar to those available for traditional sports, which ensures  
4 that chess teams receive the support and facilities needed to  
5 compete at a high level; and

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7 WHEREAS, the recent success of Esports demonstrates the  
8 value of strategic thinking and problem-solving skills,  
9 qualities essential in sports and in life; and

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11 WHEREAS, people of all ages who play chess regularly have  
12 been found to have increased mental health benefits arising from  
13 the activity; now, therefore,

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15 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second  
16 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2024, the  
17 House of Representatives concurring, that the State Foundation  
18 on Culture and the Arts is urged to convene a task force to  
19 research and develop a plan to expand access to chess as a  
20 competitive sport; and

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22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is  
23 urged to collaborate with Hawaii chess organizations to expand  
24 access to chess as a learning, development, and collaboration  
25 tool in public schools; and

26  
27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the following individuals are  
28 requested to serve as members of the task force:

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30 (1) The Executive Director of the State Foundation on  
31 Culture and the Arts, or the Executive Director's  
32 designee, who shall serve as chairperson of the task  
33 force;  
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35 (2) The Director of Business, Economic Development, and  
36 Tourism, or the Director's designee;  
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38 (3) The Superintendent of Education, or the  
39 Superintendent's designee;  
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1 (4) The Executive Director of the Hawaii High School  
2 Athletic Association, or the Executive Director's  
3 designee; and  
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5 (5) An individual from a nonprofit currently working to  
6 facilitate the sport of chess in the State, to be  
7 chosen by the chairperson; and  
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9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to  
10 submit a report of its findings and recommendations, including  
11 any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than  
12 twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of  
13 2025; and  
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15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
16 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of  
17 Business, Economic Development, and Tourism; Executive Director  
18 of the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts; Superintendent  
19 of Education; Executive Director of the Hawaii High School  
20 Athletic Association; and President of the Hawaii State Teachers  
21 Association.

