
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEVELOPMENT OF A BACCALAUREATE DEGREE PROGRAM IN
EDUCATION WITH AN ONLINE OPTION AT LEEWARD COMMUNITY
COLLEGE TO ADDRESS THE EDUCATIONAL NEEDS OF WORKING ADULTS
IN ALL COUNTIES.

1 WHEREAS, the State recognizes the importance of providing
2 accessible pathways to education and addressing the need for
3 qualified teachers in our communities; and
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5 WHEREAS, there is a growing demand for online educational
6 programs to accommodate working adults who aspire to become
7 teachers; and
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9 WHEREAS, all counties in the State face unique challenges
10 in recruiting and retaining qualified educators to meet the
11 educational needs of their schools and communities; and
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13 WHEREAS, there is a need for more baccalaureate degree
14 programs at the University of Hawaii Community Colleges to
15 expand access to educational opportunities to all Hawaii
16 counties; and
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18 WHEREAS, there is an urgent need for teaching programs in
19 rural areas to address current teacher shortages; and
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21 WHEREAS, the University of Hawaii Leeward Community
22 College's accreditation allows the college to offer up to two
23 applied baccalaureate degree programs; and
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25 WHEREAS, the University of Hawaii Leeward Community
26 College's existing Teacher Education programs are already
27 offered statewide through the Internet and include upper
28 division curriculum; and
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1 WHEREAS, the Hawaii State Teachers Association and the
2 Association for Advancing Quality in Educator Preparation both
3 recognize the teacher education programs at Leeward Community
4 College for teacher education and licensing; and

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6 WHEREAS, new programs at Leeward Community College can
7 become extensions for interested students enrolled in other
8 University of Hawaii Community Colleges who are interested in
9 the teacher pathway; and

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11 WHEREAS, the development of a baccalaureate degree program
12 in education with an online option at Leeward Community College
13 would be tailored for individuals who are employed outside of
14 the education system and seeking to enter the teaching
15 profession, currently teaching as emergency hires, and
16 substitute teaching at Department of Education public school
17 classrooms; and

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19 WHEREAS, the Legislature passed Act 141, Session Laws of
20 Hawaii 2022, which required the University of Hawaii to
21 establish kindergarten through grade 12 expanded teaching cohort
22 programs in each county for students who are pursuing
23 undergraduate degrees in education; now, therefore,

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25 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second
26 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2024, the
27 House of Representatives concurring, that:

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29 (1) The University of Hawaii Community Colleges are urged
30 to establish a baccalaureate degree program in
31 education with an online option at Leeward Community
32 College;

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34 (2) The University of Hawaii is urged to re-allocate funds
35 from within the University of Hawaii Community
36 Colleges to:

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38 (A) Facilitate the implementation of the
39 baccalaureate degree program in education with an
40 online option; and

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- 1 (B) Support initiatives addressing the educational
2 needs in all counties through existing University
3 of Hawaii Community Colleges; and
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- 5 (3) Relevant stakeholders, including the Department of
6 Education, Board of Education, community leaders, and
7 educational institutions, are urged to:
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 - 9 (A) Support and promote the collaborative efforts
10 outlined in this resolution;
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 - 12 (B) Further promote access to quality education;
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 - 14 (C) Address teacher shortage issues caused by lack of
15 recruitment and retention; and
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 - 17 (D) Support the professional development of current
18 and future educators throughout the State; and
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20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
21 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the University of Hawaii
22 Board of Regents, President of the University of Hawaii System,
23 University Vice President for Community Colleges, and University
24 of Hawaii Leeward Community College Chancellor.

