
HOUSE 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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30 WHEREAS, creating an inclusive playground environment for
31 all children in the State's public schools is critical to



1 ensuring all students get a chance to benefit from unstructured
2 play; and

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

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

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18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the report is requested to
19 include:

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21 (1) The name and location of each public school whose
22 playground includes accessible playground equipment;

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24 (2) The name and location of each public school that has
25 been identified as part of the Department of
26 Education's initiative to repair, replace, or add
27 playgrounds; and

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29 (3) Any opportunities to construct new accessible
30 playground equipment or convert existing playground
31 equipment as part of this initiative; and

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33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is
34 requested to submit its report to the Legislature no later than
35 twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of
36 2025; and

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38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
39 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of
40 Education and Superintendent of Education.

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OFFERED BY:

Elle Lohman

MAR 10 2023

