## HOUSE RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO REQUIRE ONE HUNDRED HOURS OF COMMUNITY SERVICE FROM EACH STUDENT PRIOR TO GRADUATION FROM HIGH SCHOOL.

WHEREAS, a stated vision of the Department of Education is that by the time of high school graduation, students are able to exercise the rights and responsibilities of citizenship; and

WHEREAS, the Superintendent of Education recently listed instilling civic responsibility and action in students as a top priority; and

WHEREAS, numerous states, public school districts, and private schools throughout the nation are embracing the concept of community service as a requirement for graduation; and

WHEREAS, the active participation of students in community service activities is necessary to create good citizens that contribute to building healthy communities; and

WHEREAS, the positive impacts of community service include:

- (1) Psychological and social development of students;
- (2) Intellectual and academic benefits to students;
- (3) Civic education; and
- (4) Benefits to the community; and

WHEREAS, community service is an excellent way to instill in students a sense of civic responsibility, citizenship, and action by engaging them in active civic participation; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Twenty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2006, that the Department of Education is urged to require

one hundred hours of community service from each student prior to graduation from high school to ensure that all students understand their civic responsibility; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is urged to make adjustments to academic programs and elective credits so students may meet this requirement; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is requested to work through each high school's career guidance program, with community organizations and businesses to find service opportunities for students; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, the Superintendent of Education, the Chairperson of the Board of Education, and the Principal of each public high school.

OFFERED BY:

MAR 1 5 2006