HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO ASSIST IN DEVELOPING COMMUNITY-BASED PROGRAMS ON THE BIG ISLAND THAT ENCOURAGE POSITIVE YOUTH OUTCOMES, INCLUDING LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT.

WHEREAS, the State of Hawaii is committed to the youth of our state, as they truly represent the finest and best for a better and brighter future; and

WHEREAS, it is the State's goal to empower all students and help provide opportunities that nurture and encourage them to use their abilities, soar to new heights, and recognize their fullest potential; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature recognizes students as our top priority, demonstrating its commitment to public school reform, thereby achieving greater decision-making at the school level, ensuring that schools receive realistic funding, and increasing accountability at all levels; and

WHEREAS, in today's society, students encounter many challenges that present possible stumbling blocks and obstacles that may prevent them from achieving their highest potential; and

WHEREAS, every day, students face the threats of substance abuse, teen pregnancy, school violence, and a host of other negative influences; and

WHEREAS, by channeling their energies and efforts to constructive programs and "real world" activities, students can further develop their talents, knowledge, and willingness to serve the needs of others; and

WHEREAS, the State recognizes the power of each community to bring various parties, agencies, and people together for the common goal of advancing the interests of our youth; and

WHEREAS, students from various schools on the Big Island have begun to initiate efforts to develop programs that present opportunities for leadership development, civic responsibility, personal growth and development, and a strong sense of confidence and pride; now, therefore,

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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 (DOE), with broad community participation and in conjunction with youth, various community leaders, and other agencies, is requested to assist in developing community-based programs on the Big Island that encourage positive youth outcomes, including leadership development, team spirit, high self-esteem, and reinforcement of values that result in positive contributions to the community; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the DOE is requested to submit a report to the Legislature on the progress of the collective efforts of establishing community-based programs for youth no later than 20 days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2007; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Superintendent of Education, Rural South Hilo Community Association, North Hilo Community Council, Imua Hamakua, and Kohala Intergenerational Center.

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OFFERED BY: MAR 0 6 2006