



GOV. MSG. NO. 1073

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR

July 11, 2007

The Honorable Colleen Hanabusa, President
and Members of the Senate
Twenty-Fourth State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 409
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Madam President and Members of the Senate:

Re: House Bill No. 598 HD 1 SD 1 CD1

On July 10, 2007, House Bill No. 598 entitled "A Bill for an Act Relating to Education" became law without my signature, pursuant to Section 16 of Article III of the State Constitution.

The purpose of this bill is to create the Online Learning Task Force, attached to the Department of Education, to develop a plan to expand online learning to students across the State. This bill appropriates \$50,000 in general funds in fiscal year 2007-2008 to the Department of Education for the work of the task force.

The intent of this legislation is laudable and the inclusion of programmatic measures of success is a constructive feature in this bill.

However, this bill appears to duplicate the existing efforts of the Hawaii Educational Networking Consortium (HENC). The HENC is a collaborative relationship between the Department of Education, University of Hawaii, East-West Center, and the Hawaii Association of Independent Schools. HENC's purpose is, "to develop, facilitate and promote the use of telecommunications technology in education and research in Hawai'i." It appears that HENC's purpose and membership are similar to that of the proposed task force and, as such, may be a duplication of effort.

For the foregoing reasons, I allowed House Bill No. 598 to become law as Act 275, effective July 10, 2007, without my signature.

Sincerely,

LINDA LINGLE

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO EDUCATION.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. Today's students are living in an increasingly
2 technology-driven world. Statistics indicate that ninety per
3 cent of children and adolescents from ages five to seventeen use
4 computers. About fifty-nine per cent of them use the Internet.

5 To continue captivating the minds of our youth, public
6 education must adapt and function within the context of their
7 changing world by applying technology.

8 Access to knowledge and information has expanded
9 exponentially due to the Internet. Such powerful technology
10 should be taken advantage of to enhance the learning experiences
11 of students.

12 Online learning opens up many opportunities for students,
13 and more and more educators and policymakers across the nation
14 are recognizing the benefits of education unconstrained by time
15 and place. As of September 2006, thirty-eight states either had
16 policies in place for online education, offered a state-led
17 online learning program, or both.



1 The purpose of this Act is to create an online learning
2 task force to develop a systematic plan to expand opportunities
3 for online learning and project a phasing-in plan for costs and
4 desirable outcomes to enhance the learning experiences of
5 students across the state.

6 SECTION 2. (a) There is established an online learning
7 task force to be attached to the department of education for
8 administrative purposes. The task force shall develop a
9 systematic plan to expand opportunities for online learning to
10 enhance the learning experiences of students across the state.

11 The plan shall:

12 (1) Address the following objectives:

13 (A) Providing choices for learners in how they learn
14 and how they present evidence of what they have
15 learned;

16 (B) Providing individuals access to learning
17 opportunities on a twenty-four-hour-per-day,
18 seven-days-per-week basis; and

19 (C) Enriching and enhancing twenty-first century
20 skills for all learners;

21 (2) Include methods for achieving the following desired
22 outcomes:



- 1 (A) Increasing on-time or earlier graduation rates;
- 2 (B) Increasing student achievement as measured by the
- 3 Hawaii state assessment;
- 4 (C) Decreasing student retention;
- 5 (D) Decreasing student misconduct referrals; and
- 6 (E) Increasing the number of highly qualified
- 7 teachers, administrators, and paraprofessionals;
- 8 (3) Include cost projections and a plan for phasing-in
- 9 costs; and
- 10 (4) Include proposals for regulatory policies appropriate
- 11 to online learning programs.
- 12 (b) The members of the online learning task force shall
- 13 include but not be limited to:
- 14 (1) The assistant superintendent of the department of
- 15 education office of curriculum, instruction, and
- 16 student support or the assistant superintendent's
- 17 designee;
- 18 (2) The assistant superintendent of the department of
- 19 education office of information and technology
- 20 services or the assistant superintendent's designee;
- 21 (3) The vice chancellor for students of the University of
- 22 Hawaii at Manoa;



1 (4) A representative from the Hawaii Educational
2 Networking Consortium; and

3 (5) A representative from the Myron B. Thompson Academy.

4 (c) Members of the online learning task force shall serve
5 without compensation but shall be reimbursed for expenses,
6 including travel expenses, necessary for the performance of
7 their duties.

8 (d) The online learning task force shall be exempt from
9 chapter 92, Hawaii Revised Statutes; provided that the task
10 force shall make a good faith effort to make its proceedings and
11 work products accessible and available to the general public in
12 a manner consistent with the intent of chapter 92, Hawaii
13 Revised Statutes.

14 (e) The online learning task force shall submit a report
15 of its findings and recommendations, including any proposed
16 legislation, to the legislature no later than twenty days prior
17 to the convening of the regular session of 2008.

18 (f) The online learning task force shall terminate on
19 June 30, 2008.

20 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
21 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$50,000 or so much



1 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2007-2008 to support
2 the operations of the online learning task force.

3 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
4 education for the purposes of this Act.

5 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2007.

