
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO ADOPT ADMINISTRATIVE RULES TO
ALLOW THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO GRANT SCHOOL ACADEMIC
CREDIT TO HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WHO SERVE ON NONPROFIT
BOARDS, ADVISORY COUNCILS, OR COMMISSIONS.

1 WHEREAS, a representative democracy depends on an informed,
2 prepared, and willing citizenry, capable of playing an active
3 role in government; and
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5 WHEREAS, participation in representative democracy can be
6 instilled in our youth through public education; and
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8 WHEREAS, for decades, people have become increasingly
9 disengaged from the civic and political institutions of our
10 country, an attitude that results from experiences starting at a
11 young age; and
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13 WHEREAS, youth participation appears to be increasing in
14 the areas of volunteerism, community service, and religious
15 activity, but youth awareness of social issues has decreased due
16 to fewer opportunities for political discussions and a weaker
17 connection between youth and the community; and
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19 WHEREAS, the Legislature believes that schools have a
20 mission to "advance the endowment of human nature itself, so
21 that each succeeding generation finds itself further along the
22 road towards peace, social justice, and environmental
23 sustainability in a society guided by creativity, compassion,
24 and curiosity," as expressed in the Reinventing Education Act of
25 2004, Act 51, Session Laws of Hawaii 2004; and
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27 WHEREAS, despite the Department of Education's efforts to
28 promote academic achievement, civic responsibility, and holistic
29 development in students, only a few high schools have integrated
30 civic learning into their curriculum; and



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 2 WHEREAS, the youth of Hawaii have demonstrated a desire to
 3 engage and connect with their community and the world around
 4 them beyond what academic disciplines can offer; and
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6 WHEREAS, participation on nonprofit boards, advisory
 7 councils, and commissions is a form of community service and
 8 political engagement that helps students develop attitudes,
 9 skills, and abilities that cannot be learned through the
 10 academic disciplines or curricular programs; and
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12 WHEREAS, students who participate on nonprofit boards,
 13 advisory councils, or commissions can develop the skills,
 14 conduct, and attitudes needed to collaborate, build consensus,
 15 and work toward common goals with others -- skills essential to
 16 supporting and sustaining a vibrant representative democracy and
 17 a society guided by the principles of productivity and
 18 interdependency; now, therefore,
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20 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
 21 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
 22 Session of 2007, the Senate concurring, that the Board of
 23 Education is urged to adopt administrative rules to allow the
 24 Department of Education to grant elective school academic credit
 25 to high school students who participate on nonprofit boards,
 26 advisory councils, or commissions; and
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28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature requests that
 29 the elective school credit these students receive apply toward
 30 their graduation requirements; and
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32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 33 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the
 34 Board of Education and the Superintendent of Education.
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OFFERED BY: Lydia B. Berg
Nella C. Belatti

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