
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO STUDY THE EDUCATIONAL
IMPLICATIONS OF THE SPECIAL NEEDS OF PRESCHOOL AGE CHILDREN
WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES.

1 WHEREAS, the reauthorized Individuals with Disabilities
2 Education Act (IDEA) requires public schools to make available
3 to all eligible children with disabilities a free appropriate
4 public education in the least restrictive environment
5 appropriate to their individual needs; and
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7 WHEREAS, public schools are also required to develop
8 appropriate Individualized Education Plans for each child; and
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10 WHEREAS, the developmental needs of the child must be
11 considered when developing an Individualized Education Plan; and
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13 WHEREAS, there is a need to improve the coordination of
14 IDEA-mandated special education and related services with
15 respect to the appropriateness of a disabled child's
16 developmental age, not just chronological age, due to a
17 biological risk factor such as Down syndrome or Trisomy 21; and
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19 WHEREAS, children with Down syndrome, for instance,
20 generally develop at a slower rate and have different patterns
21 of development than typically developing children; and
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23 WHEREAS, this delay in development means that children with
24 Down syndrome will not learn to sit, stand, walk, or talk as
25 early as other children; and
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27 WHEREAS, it also means that children with Down syndrome may
28 need more repetition and more consistency than typically
29 developing children when learning new skills; and
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31 WHEREAS, it is recommended that a "total communication"
32 approach, including sign language, oral communication, and



1 visual cues be used to help children with Down syndrome develop
2 expressive language; and

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4 WHEREAS, for children with Down syndrome who have a
5 permanent or persistent hearing loss, it is important to
6 consider using amplification such as hearing aids or other
7 systems prescribed by an audiologist; and

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9 WHEREAS, the Department of Education should study the
10 educational implications of the special needs of preschool age
11 children with developmental disabilities such as Down syndrome;
12 now, therefore,

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14 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
15 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
16 Session of 2007, the Senate concurring, that the Department of
17 Education is urged to study the educational implications of the
18 special needs of preschool age children with developmental
19 disabilities such as Down syndrome, and to consult with the
20 Department of Health and Parent Training Centers during the
21 study; and

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23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is
24 also urged to develop:

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26 (1) Guidelines for the assessment, intervention, and
27 education of preschool-age children with developmental
28 disabilities, including the use of sign language for
29 children regardless of hearing loss; and

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31 (2) Developmental goals and criteria for preschool
32 readiness, including appropriateness for developmental
33 age and chronological age; and

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35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is
36 requested to consider adopting the December 2005, *Clinical
37 Practice Guideline: Down Syndrome, Assessment and Intervention
38 for Young Children (Age 0 to 3 Years)*, sponsored by the New York
39 State Department of Health; and

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41 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is
42 requested to submit a report of its findings and
43 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the



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1 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
2 the Regular Session of 2008; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chair of the Board
of Education, Superintendent of Education, and Director of
Health.

OFFERED BY:

John M. Higgins
James J. ...
Mark ...
John ...

Colin ...

Sabrina Yamamoto
Tony ...

Cynthia ...
Juan ...
Karen ...
Al ...

JAN 19 2007