
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE WESTERN ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES (WASC) TO
INCREASE HAWAII'S MEMBERSHIP AND VOTES ON WASC TO
STRENGTHEN THE STATE'S INPUT ON THE ACCREDITATION AND
APPROVAL OF SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES IN THE REGION.

1 WHEREAS, the purpose of the Western Association of Schools
2 and Colleges (WASC) is to promote the welfare, interests, and
3 development of elementary, secondary, and higher education
4 through:

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- 6 (1) The improvement of educational programs;
- 7
- 8 (2) Closer cooperation among the schools, colleges, and
9 universities within the region it serves;
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- 11 (3) Certification of accreditation or candidacy status;
12 and
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- 14 (4) Effective working relationships with other educational
15 organizations and accrediting agencies;
- 16

17 and

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19 WHEREAS, WASC is composed of a nine-member board of
20 directors and has three accrediting commissions, as follows:

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- 22 (1) The Accrediting Commission for Senior Colleges and
23 Universities, which is composed of 18-25 members;
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- 25 (2) The Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior
26 Colleges, which is composed of 19 members, one of whom
27 is nominated by the President of the University of
28 Hawaii; and



1 (3) The Accrediting Commission for Schools, which is
2 composed of up to 25 members of whom:

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4 (A) One is nominated by the Hawaii Government
5 Employees' Association;

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7 (B) One is nominated by the Hawaii Association of
8 Independent Schools;

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10 (C) One is a practicing classroom teacher on a
11 rotational basis from the Hawaii, Pacific
12 Islands, and East Asia Regional Council of
13 Overseas Schools region; and

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15 (D) One is a member of the Hawaii Department of
16 Education and has ex-officio status on the
17 Commission;

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19 and

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21 WHEREAS, the accrediting region of WASC consists of the
22 states of California and Hawaii, the territories of Guam,
23 American Samoa, Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of the
24 Marshall Islands, Republic of Palau, Commonwealth of the
25 Northern Marianas Islands, Pacific Basin, and East Asia, and
26 areas of the Pacific and East Asia where American/International
27 schools or colleges may apply; and

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29 WHEREAS, as the only two states in WASC, Hawaii and
30 California equally contribute valuable input to the
31 accreditation of educational institutions at all levels in the
32 Pacific and East Asia regions; and

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34 WHEREAS, the importance of the tasks performed by WASC
35 should require that the two states be given equal voices, but
36 Hawaii does not have parity with California on WASC's Board of
37 Directors; and

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39 WHEREAS, although the University of Hawaii has often been
40 referred to as a world-class research university, it has not
41 been included on U.S. News' annual list of top 50 public
42 national universities, which has included seven University of
43 California campuses, and this may be an indicator of unequal
44 representation on WASC; now, therefore,



1 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
2 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
3 Session of 2007, the Senate concurring, that the Western
4 Association of Schools and Colleges is urged to increase
5 Hawaii's membership and votes on WASC to strengthen the State's
6 input on the accreditation and approval of schools and colleges
7 in the region; and

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9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
10 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the:

- 11 (1) United States Secretary of Education;
- 12 (2) Governor of California;
- 13 (3) Governor of Hawaii;
- 14 (4) Superintendent of Education;
- 15 (5) President of the University of Hawaii;
- 16 (6) Executive Director of the Hawaii Association Of
17 Independent Schools;
- 18 (7) President of the WASC-Accrediting Commission for
19 Community and Junior Colleges;
- 20 (8) Executive Director of the WASC-Accrediting Commission
21 for Schools;
- 22 (9) President and Executive Director of the WASC-
23 Accrediting Commission for Senior Colleges and
24 Universities;
- 25 (10) Executive Director of the Middle States Association of
26 Colleges and Schools-Commission on Higher Education;
- 27 (11) Executive Director of the Middle States Commission on
28 Secondary Schools;
- 29 (12) Director of the New England Association of Schools and
30 Colleges (NEASC)-Commission on Institutions of Higher
31 Education;
- 32 (13) Director of the NEASC-Commission on Technical and
33 Career Institutions;
- 34 (14) Executive Director of the North Central Association of
35 Colleges and Schools-The Higher Learning Commission;
- 36 (15) Executive Director of the North Central Association
37 Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement-
38 Board of Trustees;
- 39 (16) President of the Northwest Commission on Colleges and
40 Universities; and
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(17) President of the Southern Association of Colleges and
Schools-Commission on Colleges.

OFFERED BY:

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