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## HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO ESTABLISH AT LEAST ONE CIVIC STANDARD AT EVERY GRADE LEVEL FROM K-12 THAT INTEGRATES SERVICE LEARNING AND EXPECTS STUDENTS TO ENGAGE, PARTICIPATE, AND BECOME ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN THEIR COMMUNITIES.

1           WHEREAS, democracy depends on citizens being informed,  
2 prepared, and willing and able to take on an active role in  
3 government; and

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5           WHEREAS, civic participation requires a set of learned  
6 skills and proper attitude; and

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8           WHEREAS, schools therefore have a public purpose and need  
9 to prepare young people with the knowledge, dispositions, and  
10 skills necessary to be competent and responsible members of our  
11 civil, democratic society throughout their lives; and

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13           WHEREAS, civic learning refers to the attitudes and actions  
14 of citizens engaging in the affairs of the community; and

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16           WHEREAS, in 2004, the Legislature passed Act 51, Session  
17 Laws of Hawaii 2004, which enabled the Department of Education  
18 to significantly shape our public school system; and

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20           WHEREAS, now more than ever, schools are expected to reach  
21 out to parents, families, businesses, and organizations to  
22 create learning communities to improve students' academic  
23 achievement, safety and well-being, and responsible citizenship;  
24 and

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26           WHEREAS, Act 51 states that "[a]lthough many  
27 responsibilities are laid upon education, ultimately, education  
28 must do no less than advance the endowment of human culture  
29 itself, so that each succeeding generation finds itself further  
30 along the road toward peace, social justice, and environmental

1 sustainability in a society guided by creativity, compassion,  
2 and curiosity"; and

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4 WHEREAS, the Department of Education has created strands of  
5 political science and civics within social studies classes that  
6 are not yet accompanied by benchmarks, sample performance  
7 assessments, and rubrics for all grade levels; and

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9 WHEREAS, performance assessments for each grade level  
10 should require the application and practice of concepts or the  
11 demonstration of higher level thinking skills related to civic  
12 learning but currently merely expect students to understand,  
13 describe, and explain the concepts; and

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15 WHEREAS, taxonomy has a major effect on curriculum planning  
16 for teachers; and

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18 WHEREAS, revising existing standards relating to civic  
19 learning, as well as creating a continuum of standards from  
20 kindergarten through grade twelve that integrates service  
21 learning and community-based education, would result in a  
22 coherent, relevant, and meaningful sequence of content, skills,  
23 and activities that build competence in civic learning; now,  
24 therefore,

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26 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
27 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
28 Session of 2007, that the Board of Education is requested to  
29 create and adopt a policy for civic learning for all K-12 grade  
30 levels; and

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32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education is  
33 requested to establish an educational strand of political  
34 science and civics for every grade level, including requisite  
35 benchmarks, performance assessments, rubrics, and examples; and

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37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
38 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, the Chairperson of  
39 the Board of Education, and the Superintendent of Education.

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