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## HOUSE RESOLUTION

URGING THE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO ADOPT ADMINISTRATIVE RULES TO  
ALLOW THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO GRANT SCHOOL CREDIT TO  
THE STUDENT MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION.

1           WHEREAS, a representative democracy is dependent on a  
2 citizenry that is informed, prepared, willing, and capable of  
3 actively participating in government; and  
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5           WHEREAS, participation in a representative democracy is a  
6 learned behavior; 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, behavior 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, the Legislature supports the Department of  
28 Education's efforts to promote academic achievement, civic  
29 responsibility, and holistic development in its students; and



1           WHEREAS, only a few high schools have integrated civic  
2 learning into their curriculum; and

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4           WHEREAS, the youth of Hawaii have demonstrated a desire to  
5 be engaged and connected with their community and the world  
6 around them beyond what academic disciplines can offer; and

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8           WHEREAS, participation on non-profit boards is a form of  
9 community service and political engagement that helps students  
10 develop the attitudes, skills, and abilities that may not be  
11 learned through the academic disciplines or curricular programs;  
12 and

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14           WHEREAS, students who participate on non-profit boards can  
15 develop the skills, conduct, and attitudes needed to  
16 collaborate, build consensus, and work toward common goals with  
17 others, which are skills essential to supporting and sustaining  
18 a vibrant representative democracy and a society guided by the  
19 principles of productivity and interdependency; and

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21           WHEREAS, students who participate on the Board of Education  
22 while simultaneously pursuing academic goals in school, can also  
23 learn the value of service to their peers, schools, and the  
24 Department of Education; and

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26           WHEREAS, by participating on the Board of Education,  
27 students may have to miss classes to attend meetings; now,  
28 therefore,

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30           BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
31 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
32 Session of 2007, that the Board of Education is urged to adopt  
33 administrative rules to allow the Department of Education to  
34 grant elective school credit to the student member of the Board  
35 of Education; and

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37           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature requests that  
38 any elective school credit granted apply toward the student's  
39 graduation requirements; and



1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
2 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of  
3 Education and the Superintendent of Education.  
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OFFERED BY: Jyla B. Berg  
Della C. Belatti

MAR 13 2007

