

MAR 14 2007

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE AUDITOR TO CONDUCT A FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT AUDIT
OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION'S SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAM.

1 WHEREAS, the State of Hawaii, in complying with the 1994
2 federal Felix consent decree, agreed to provide adequate mental
3 health, special education, and other services to special-needs
4 students; and
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6 WHEREAS, there are approximately 22,000 special education
7 students, or twelve per cent of the student population, who are
8 entitled to receive services for autism, mental health, and
9 psychiatric conditions, and behavioral and emotional issues; and
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11 WHEREAS, the cost of providing special education services
12 since 1994 to comply with the consent decree has ranged from an
13 estimated \$300,000,000 to more than \$1,000,000,000; and
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15 WHEREAS, the State of Hawaii spent \$51,000,000 on special
16 education contracts during fiscal year 2004-2005; and
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18 WHEREAS, since the lifting of the consent decree in 2005,
19 the Department of Education plans to decrease its spending on
20 special education contracts; and
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22 WHEREAS, parents of special education students have noted
23 that services for their children have been eliminated and that
24 the number of service providers are now being restricted; and
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26 WHEREAS, the State of Hawaii has a responsibility to
27 provide special-needs students with special education services
28 through an organized and accountable program; now, therefore,
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30 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth
31 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2007, the
32 House of Representatives concurring, that the Auditor is



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1 requested to conduct a fiscal and management audit of the
 2 Department of Education's special education services program to
 3 ensure that an adequate level of special education services is
 4 being provided to special-needs students; and
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6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is
 7 requested to cooperate with, and provide assistance to, the
 8 Auditor with respect to this fiscal and management audit; and
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10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Auditor is requested to
 11 submit to the Legislature findings and recommendations,
 12 including any proposed legislation, no later than twenty days
 13 prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2008; and
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15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 16 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, the
 17 Auditor, the Chairperson of the Board of Education, and the
 18 Superintendent of Education.
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OFFERED BY: JIM (B/R)
 Suzanne Chun Cleveland
 (By Request)