
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO WORK WITH APPROPRIATE ENTITIES TO EXTEND THE LENGTH OF THE SCHOOL DAY TO ACCOMMODATE INCREASED PHYSICAL EDUCATION, ART, AND MUSIC REQUIREMENTS, AND OTHER SPECIAL PROJECTS, WHICH MAY INCLUDE AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES AND COMPETITIONS.

1 WHEREAS, the number of obese children has tripled over the
2 past three decades, posing serious health risks and rapidly
3 rising obesity-related health care costs for ailments such as
4 diabetes, heart disease, stroke, high blood pressure, and
5 asthma; and

6
7 WHEREAS, Hawaii's adolescent obesity rate has doubled over
8 the past two decades, with twenty-two per cent of boys and girls
9 in Hawaii considered overweight; and

10
11 WHEREAS, studies have shown that a child who is physically
12 healthy is more likely to be academically motivated, alert, and
13 successful; and

14
15 WHEREAS, children spend a large part of their lives in
16 school, thus giving schools the opportunity to help them get
17 more physical exercise and provide education on health
18 maintenance; and

19
20 WHEREAS, although high school graduation requirements
21 include one credit of physical education, there is a lack of an
22 adequate and consistent physical education curriculum at the
23 elementary and middle school grade levels; and

24
25 WHEREAS, art and music instruction in the public schools
26 has been curtailed or eliminated to focus on academic
27 requirements and standards; and



1 WHEREAS, art instruction promotes an appreciation for
2 society's creative expressions of various art forms and
3 encourages individual creativity; and
4

5 WHEREAS, studies show that music instruction helps with a
6 student's acquisition of logic and math skills; and
7

8 WHEREAS, participation in other school-related special
9 projects, including after school activities and competitions
10 such as those that involve learning the practical applications
11 of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics and other
12 fields of study teach students the value of teamwork,
13 professionalism, and the commitment to problem-solving; and
14

15 WHEREAS, a significant increase in the amount of activity
16 and exercise in a physical education curriculum, art, and music
17 instruction during school hours, and instruction or
18 participation in applied learning activities and competitions
19 would require a longer school day; now, therefore,
20

21 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth
22 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2007, the
23 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of
24 Education is respectfully requested to work with the Board of
25 Education, the Governor, and the Hawaii State Teachers
26 Association to consider extending the school day for elementary
27 and middle schools to accommodate increased physical education,
28 art, and music requirements, as well as other after school
29 activities and competitions, which may include those involving
30 applied learning in the fields of science, technology,
31 engineering, and mathematics, to prevent the development of
32 adult obesity and to further the well-being and preparation of
33 Hawaii's youth in the future; and
34

35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the discussion and analysis
36 should encompass the time and resources necessary for
37 participation in after school activities and competitions that
38 provide students applied learning and experiential learning
39 opportunities, including discussion of the necessary staffing
40 and other logistical requirements for those activities and
41 programs; and
42

43 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
44 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Superintendent of



- 1 Education, the Chairperson of the Board of Education, the
- 2 Governor, and the President of the Hawaii State Teachers
- 3 Association.

