

MAR 09 2007

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO CONSIDER OFFERING
PEACEKEEPING AND PEER MEDIATION CLASSES.

1 WHEREAS, the creation of peaceful and just societies is a
2 desire of many countries throughout the world; and
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4 WHEREAS, in places of global conflict and violence, peace
5 is a major collaborative goal of many people; and
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7 WHEREAS, Mahatma Gandhi, a political and spiritual leader
8 who advocated nonviolence, believed that pacifism is not
9 passivity, but is a direct action, well-organized and designed
10 not to bring adversaries to their knees but to their senses; and
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12 WHEREAS, Colman McCarthy, director of the Center for
13 Teaching Peace, who teaches courses on nonviolence at public
14 high schools in the District of Columbia, the University of
15 Maryland, American University, and the Georgetown University Law
16 Center, believes that schools are a critical component of peace
17 education and the peace movement; and
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19 WHEREAS, Act 51, Session Laws of Hawaii, Regular Session of
20 2004, includes in its purpose clause, "Although many
21 responsibilities are laid upon education, ultimately education
22 must do no less than advance the endowment of human culture
23 itself, so that each succeeding generation finds itself further
24 along the road towards peace, social justice, and environmental
25 sustainability in a society guided by creativity, compassion,
26 and curiosity."; and
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28 WHEREAS, the Legislature believes that Hawaii schools
29 should be teaching ways to achieve peace and, through peer
30 mediation, help students gain the skills necessary to resolve
31 conflict because unless we teach our children peace, someone
32 else will teach them violence; now, therefore,
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34 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth
35 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2007,
36 that the Department of Education is requested to consider



1 offering peacekeeping and peer mediation classes to public high
2 school students in Hawaii; and

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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is
5 requested to work with the Board of Education and to collaborate
6 with the Spark M. Matsunaga Institute for Peace to develop a
7 peacekeeping and peer mediation curriculum; and

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9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
10 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, the Superintendent of
11 Education, the Chairperson of the Board of Education, and the
12 Director of the Spark M. Matsunaga Institute for Peace.

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OFFERED BY: Norman S. Gamm

