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# SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO REPORT ON CURRENT  
INITIATIVES AND DEVELOP A PLAN FOR FUTURE AREAS OF  
IMPROVEMENT.

1           WHEREAS, the No Child Left Behind Act has forced schools to  
2 focus their funding and efforts on the lowest achieving students  
3 in order to meet the mandates of Adequate Yearly Progress  
4 required by that Act; and

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6           WHEREAS, students who are capable of high academic  
7 achievement, become unchallenged or bored and may exhibit  
8 behavioral problems in class, and are not reaching their full  
9 potential; and

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11           WHEREAS, many families with highly capable children have  
12 chosen to send their children to private schools because of a  
13 perceived lack of challenging curricula in public schools; and

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15           WHEREAS, the gifted and talented programs that do exist in  
16 the public schools often serve a very small percentage of highly  
17 capable students; and

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19           WHEREAS, many students deemed "unqualified" for current  
20 gifted and talented programs are actually capable of high  
21 achievement through "perspiration" and "aspiration"; and

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23           WHEREAS, open-enrollment gifted and talented programs,  
24 similar to programs at Kahuku High School and Kahuku  
25 Intermediate School, show that many more students than  
26 previously contemplated are capable of meeting the demands of  
27 rigorous and challenging curricula; now, therefore,

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29           BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth  
30 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2007,  
31 that the Department of Education is requested to report on  
32 current initiatives that provide for high achieving students and  
33 to develop a plan and provide information on the implementation  
34 of the plan for future areas of improvement, including  
35 establishing outcomes, strategies, measures, and timelines, with



1 the goal of twenty per cent of public school students enrolling  
2 in gifted and talented programs, honors classes, advanced  
3 placement courses, International Baccalaureate programs, or  
4 other similar programs designed to provide rigorous and  
5 challenging curricula; and

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7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the plan include but not be  
8 limited to the following:

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10 (1) The number of students currently enrolled in gifted  
11 and talented programs or similar programs with highly  
12 challenging academic curricula;

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14 (2) Recommendations on ways to increase the number of  
15 enrolled students in gifted and talented programs or  
16 similar programs with highly challenging academic  
17 curricula, in order to reach the goal of twenty per  
18 cent of public school students enrolled in such  
19 programs;

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21 (3) Recommendations on methods to include students in the  
22 gifted and talented programs who may not exhibit the  
23 traditional qualifications for acceptance into such  
24 programs, but who demonstrate a high aptitude for  
25 achievement by other performance measures;

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27 (4) Program recommendations to provide opportunities for  
28 potentially high achieving students;

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30 (5) Program recommendations in the areas of language arts,  
31 social studies, math, science, fine arts, performing  
32 arts, and foreign languages; and

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34 (6) The personnel requirements and costs associated with  
35 the comprehensive plan; and

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37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is  
38 requested to make information available regarding gifted and  
39 talented programs and courses and on current initiatives for  
40 high achieving students via the Internet; and

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42 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is  
43 requested to submit its report and plan, including any findings



1 and recommendations, to the Legislature no later than twenty  
2 days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2008; and

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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
5 Resolution be transmitted to the Board of Education and the  
6 Superintendent of Education.

