

MAR 14 2007

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## SENATE RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO STUDY THE FEASIBILITY OF  
INTEGRATING PEACE EDUCATION INTO THE SCHOOL CURRICULUM.

1           WHEREAS, our country is currently involved in a war in Iraq  
2 that has killed thousands of American and Iraqi peoples, has  
3 cost the United States over 365 billion dollars, and to which  
4 there seems to be no end in sight; and

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6           WHEREAS, the violence that exists within our country is  
7 reflected in the behavior of our youth, as demonstrated by the  
8 increase in bullying in schools and situations like the  
9 Columbine High School massacre; and

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11           WHEREAS, Hawaii is very culturally, ethnically, and  
12 religiously diverse, making our state unique and beautiful, but  
13 such a mixture can also lead to misunderstandings that can  
14 sometimes escalate into violence; and

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16           WHEREAS, some of the aggression that has afflicted mainland  
17 schools has also afflicted Hawaii's classrooms, with incidents  
18 of guns in schools, and severe beatings and psychological abuse  
19 among peers; and

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21           WHEREAS, the level of violence within our country and  
22 consequently, in our schools, is growing at an alarming rate,  
23 and it is becoming increasingly necessary to find other ways of  
24 resolving conflict besides fighting; and

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26           WHEREAS, there are models of experiential learning that  
27 stimulate critical thinking and teach students to work together  
28 to solve some of Hawaii's complex social issues, thereby  
29 fostering a life of compassion and an understanding of inter-  
30 dependence between peers; and

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32           WHEREAS, students would benefit greatly from inter-  
33 dependent activities that would help them gain knowledge of and  
34 practice the skills necessary to reduce conflicts and prevent  
35 violence on a personal as well as international level, and



1 ultimately create more peaceful conditions within the schools  
2 and across the globe; and

3  
4 WHEREAS, the Department of Education (DOE) has already  
5 included character education in its standards of learning;  
6 according to its "living aloha through civil education" website,  
7 all schools will implement a comprehensive approach to character  
8 education which:

- 9
- 10 (1) Defines character in cognitive, emotional, and  
11 behavioral dimensions as indicated in the core ethical  
12 values;
  - 13  
14 (2) Provides character building experiences through all  
15 phases of school life, including the formal and  
16 informal curriculum;
  - 17  
18 (3) Is proactive--creating opportunities for teaching  
19 character as well as being responsive to teachable  
20 moments that spontaneously arise; and
  - 21  
22 (4) Provides students in each grade level with many and  
23 varied opportunities to practice respect and  
24 responsibility;

25  
26 and

27  
28 WHEREAS, integrating peace education into DOE curriculum  
29 would work together with and significantly enhance character  
30 education; now, therefore,

31  
32 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth  
33 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2007,  
34 that the Department of Education is requested to study the  
35 feasibility of integrating peace education into the school  
36 curriculum, that would integrate lessons from other institutions  
37 such as the Pacific Buddhist Academy and Spark M. Matsunaga  
38 Institute for Peace, the programs of which are dedicated to  
39 decreasing violence and establishing greater peace throughout  
40 the world; and



1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DOE is requested to submit a  
2 report to the Legislature, no later than twenty days prior to  
3 convening of the regular session of 2008, on the progress of its  
4 study, including:

- 5  
6 (1) The ideas that have resulted from its discussions; and  
7  
8 (2) Any projected costs related to integrating peace  
9 education into the school curriculum;

10  
11 and

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13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
14 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of  
15 Education and Superintendent of Education.

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OFFERED BY:

Norman Sakonop  
Cleveland K. Resnik  
JWH

