

MAR 13 2008

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO CONSIDER CONTINUING
PROJECT GRADUATION TRAINING THROUGH DRIVER EDUCATION
UNDERWRITERS' FEES AS PART OF TRAFFIC SAFETY EDUCATION.

1 WHEREAS, teen drivers have the highest crash risk of any
2 age group; and
3

4 WHEREAS, vehicle crashes are still the leading cause of
5 death among American teens, accounting for more than one-third
6 of all deaths of sixteen to eighteen-year-olds; and
7

8 WHEREAS, night driving is a high-risk activity for
9 beginning drivers, with nighttime fatal crash rates for sixteen-
10 year olds accounting for double the number that occur during the
11 day; and
12

13 WHEREAS, prom and graduation nights have been found to be
14 the most dangerous nights for teenagers due to underage drinking
15 combined with driving, lack of seat belt use, and driving with
16 passengers; and
17

18 WHEREAS, Project Prom/Graduation all-night chemical-free
19 celebrations are recognized as a community prevention program to
20 reduce injuries and fatalities on the highways during the prom
21 and graduation season; and
22

23 WHEREAS, Project Graduation in Hawaii has been a successful
24 traffic safety education activity conducted statewide to promote
25 safe, alcohol and drug-free high school graduation celebrations
26 for graduating seniors; and
27

28 WHEREAS, Project Graduation, along with athletics and band,
29 has been one of the three most successful activities at public
30 high schools in getting parent participation to support students
31 with over two thousand parent volunteers annually to plan and
32 conduct Project Graduation events for their graduates; and



1
2 WHEREAS, there have not been any traffic fatalities or
3 related injuries on commencement nights in the Hawaii community
4 since the inception of Project Graduation in June 1990; and
5

6 WHEREAS, the current federal grant supporting Project
7 Graduation training is ending in September 2008; and
8

9 WHEREAS, pursuant to sections 302A-417 and 431:10C-115,
10 Hawaii Revised Statutes, funds allocated to the Department of
11 Education via the Director of Commerce and Consumer Affairs from
12 the Special Driver Education Fund underwriters fee may be used
13 for the Department of Education's traffic safety education
14 program; and
15

16 WHEREAS, Project Graduation has grown since its inception
17 as a federally funded project from one public high school
18 participating in 1990 to over fifty public and private high
19 schools participating in 2007 involving five thousand graduates;
20 and
21

22 WHEREAS, Project Graduation has benefited countless
23 graduating seniors in providing a fun-filled, safe, and
24 memorable alcohol- and drug-free graduation celebration for
25 them; now, therefore,
26

27 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth
28 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2008, the
29 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of
30 Education is requested to consider funding Project Graduation
31 training activities through the Department's driver education
32 funds, as allowed by statute; and
33

34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is
35 requested to submit a report to the Legislature, no later than
36 twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of
37 2009, on how the Department of Education is continuing Project
38 Graduation training after the cessation of its federal grant;
39 and
40

41 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this



S.C.R. NO. 220

1 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the
2 Board of Education and the Superintendent of Education.

3
4
5

OFFERED BY: Norman Satomah

