

FEB 28 2008

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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO CONDUCT A STUDY ON  
INCREASING THE NUMBER OF DAYS IN THE SCHOOL YEAR.

1           WHEREAS, the United States is not keeping pace with the  
2 rest of the industrialized world, in that the United States, in  
3 2006, ranked behind the top five countries in the percentage of  
4 twenty to twenty-four-year-olds with a high school credential;  
5 slipped to fifth among the countries in the percentage of  
6 eighteen to twenty-four-year-olds enrolled in college; and  
7 ranked in the bottom half of the countries, sixteenth out of  
8 twenty-seven, on the proportion of students who completed  
9 college certificates or degree programs; and

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11           WHEREAS, in 2006, Hawaii ranked forty-fifth out of fifty  
12 states in high school and college completion percentages because  
13 thirty-five per cent of students in Hawaii did not complete high  
14 school; thirty-one per cent of the high school graduates did not  
15 immediately enroll in college after graduation; twenty-one per  
16 cent of college students did not graduate within six years of  
17 entering college; and only thirteen per cent of college students  
18 graduated within six years of a four-year program and three  
19 years of a two-year program; and

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21           WHEREAS, the State wants to see its keiki succeed;  
22 therefore, every effort needs to be made to assure that our  
23 keiki are prepared to graduate from high school and college; and

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25           WHEREAS, one major way to accomplish this goal is to  
26 increase the amount of time the students are in school; and

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28           WHEREAS, in Hawaii, students participate in one hundred and  
29 eighty days of instruction on average per year, which is near  
30 the nationwide average of one hundred and eighty-three to one  
31 hundred and eighty-four days of instruction per year; and

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1           WHEREAS, in countries such as Japan and Germany, the  
2 students participate in up to two hundred and forty days of  
3 instruction per year; and  
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5           WHEREAS, the cost associated with increasing the number of  
6 days of instruction per year in Hawaii would be offset by an  
7 increase in the number of qualified workers, a decrease in the  
8 number of people needing public support, an increase in the  
9 number of people able to directly enter the workforce after high  
10 school and college, and an increase in the number of people  
11 eligible to attend graduate school; thus, the standard of living  
12 would increase for all of Hawaii's residents; and  
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14           WHEREAS, some of the professional educators and support  
15 staff already work twelve months per year; therefore, the major  
16 impact would be on the direct teaching force necessitating  
17 consideration of additional educators or increased or additional  
18 salary; now, therefore,  
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20           BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth  
21 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2008, the  
22 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of  
23 Education is requested to conduct a study on increasing the  
24 number of days of instruction in the current school year; and  
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26           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study should include  
27 examination of the benefits and detriments involved in  
28 increasing the number of days of instruction in the school year  
29 by ten days, twenty days, and any other number of days as deemed  
30 appropriate; and  
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32           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study should also include  
33 information on what could be learned by the students in the  
34 additional time, potential schedules for extending the days of  
35 instruction in the school year, a breakdown of the number of  
36 hours of learning involved in an increased schedule, and the  
37 fiscal and non-fiscal impacts on the State, the Department of  
38 Education, the teachers and support staff, and the students and  
39 their families; and  
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41           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education  
42 shall submit a report to the Legislature on its findings and  
43 recommendations no later than twenty days prior to the convening  
44 of the Regular Session of 2009; and



# S.C.R. NO. 73

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
2 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the  
3 Board of Education and the Superintendent of Education.  
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OFFERED BY:

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