MAR 1 2 2008

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO CHANGE THE HAWAII
ADMINISTRATIVE RULES TO ALLOW CHILDREN WHO ARE HOME
SCHOOLED TO PARTICIPATE IN PUBLIC SCHOOL CO-CURRICULAR OR
EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES.

WHEREAS, co-curricular or extracurricular activities, including athletics, play an important role in the holistic development of a child; and

WHEREAS, Hawaii's public school system, as well as the Department of Human Services, affords public school students the opportunity to participate in numerous before-school and after-school activities that enhance their development as contributing members of our communities; and

WHEREAS, section 302B-16, Hawaii Revised Statutes, affords charter school students the right to participate in athletic programs at public schools; and

WHEREAS, home schooled students need to have a well-balanced education, similar to public school and charter school students; and

WHEREAS, home schooled students lack the same recreational enrichment provided by co-curricular or extracurricular activities available to public school students; and

WHEREAS, based on the number of 4140 forms filed, the Department of Education has 9,147 students formally registered as home schooled students; and

WHEREAS, parents of home schooled students must pay for their children's curriculum and supplies, but must also pay taxes to support the public financing of the Department of Education's \$2.4 billion budget; and

WHEREAS, subsection 8-12-13(d), Hawaii Administrative Rules (HAR) provides that the parents of a home schooled student are

responsible for the child's total educational program, including athletics and co-curricular activities; now, therefore,

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BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2008, that the Department of Education is requested to change the HAR to allow children who are home schooled to participate in public school co-curricular or extracurricular activities; and

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

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OFFERED BY