

FEB 02 2009

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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO CONDUCT A FEASIBILITY  
STUDY ON CONVERTING HARD COVER TEXT BOOKS TO E-BOOKS FOR  
USE IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

1 WHEREAS, textbook shortages continue to be an issue for  
2 many Hawaii schools; and  
3

4 WHEREAS, the average weight of a backpack in middle school  
5 can be as much as twenty pounds, and some doctors recommend that  
6 individuals never carry more than ten per cent of their body  
7 weight to avoid injury; and  
8

9 WHEREAS, some schools do not have enough textbooks to allow  
10 students to bring them home to study; and  
11

12 WHEREAS, textbooks typically cost between \$60 and \$90 each,  
13 and even when there are enough books for each student in a  
14 class, they can sometimes be too valuable to be allowed to leave  
15 the classroom; and  
16

17 WHEREAS, an insufficient number of textbooks in a classroom  
18 can cripple the teacher's ability to teach and the student's  
19 ability to learn; and  
20

21 WHEREAS, maintaining updated textbooks for every public  
22 school student in the State would cost tens of millions of  
23 dollars; and  
24

25 WHEREAS, even when textbooks are relatively current, they  
26 cannot provide a complete curriculum, and teachers must  
27 supplement their lesson plans with handouts on the latest  
28 research; and  
29

30 WHEREAS, the academic landscape has expanded to include a  
31 range of resources that were technologically impossible a few



1 years ago, and the traditional textbook may no longer be  
2 considered as central to a curriculum as it once was; and  
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4 WHEREAS, e-books are text documents that have been  
5 converted and "published" in a digital format that display on  
6 specialized reading devices or computers; and  
7

8 WHEREAS, e-books can be stored and read on laptops, pocket  
9 computers, and e-book reading devices for access at any time,  
10 and a gigabyte of computer chip storage space can contain two  
11 hundred illustrated reference books, three hundred fifty legal  
12 volumes, or about two thousand five hundred six hundred-page  
13 novels; and  
14

15 WHEREAS, e-books can present text in a more user-friendly  
16 style than traditional books, be electronically read aloud, and  
17 can allow users to adjust text size, bookmark a page, take notes  
18 within a book, highlight portions of the text, add drawings,  
19 look up definitions, search within the text, and copy and paste  
20 selected text to other programs; and  
21

22 WHEREAS, e-book software could be updated more often and at  
23 lower costs to schools over time; and  
24

25 WHEREAS, e-books can be considered stronger, dynamic,  
26 interactive versions of traditional textbooks that use computer  
27 programs that can respond in real time to a student's work with  
28 personalized feedback, thereby tailoring and improving the  
29 learning experience to meet the individual needs of the student;  
30 and  
31

32 WHEREAS, these online textbooks can provide on-demand  
33 suggestions, guided solutions, quizzes, and multiple problem  
34 examples and explanations; and  
35

36 WHEREAS, e-books allow students to learn at their own pace,  
37 without the time pressure or fear of answering incorrectly in  
38 front of their peers, which can be present in a group learning  
39 situation; and  
40

41 WHEREAS, there are many online libraries and organizations  
42 that make available a large number of e-books for little or no  
43 cost; and  
44



1 WHEREAS, e-books permit teachers to work more effectively  
 2 with a range of students, allowing faster learners to forge  
 3 ahead while giving other students more time to grasp certain  
 4 concepts; now, therefore,

5  
 6 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fifth  
 7 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2009, the  
 8 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of  
 9 Education is requested to conduct a feasibility study on  
 10 converting hard cover text books to e-books for use in public  
 11 schools; and

12  
 13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study shall include, but  
 14 not be limited to, considerations of cost and computer  
 15 accessibility; and

16  
 17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education  
 18 shall report its findings and recommendations, including cost  
 19 estimates, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to  
 20 the convening of the Regular Session of 2010; and

21  
 22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this  
 23 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Superintendent of  
 24 Education.

25  
 26  
 27 OFFERED BY:

*Randy H. Baker*  
*John E. Ehl*  
*Ray L. Hansen*  
*John D. D.*

*Donna M. M.*  
*Clarence B. M.*

*Michelle H. H.*

*B. S. S.*

*Norman S.*

*Will E.*

*Fuller*

*G. L. M.*  
*Shirane Chun A.*

