FFB 1 0 2009

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE WESTERN ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES TO AMEND ITS CONSTITUTION TO REFLECT A MORE EQUITABLE GEOGRAPHIC REPRESENTATION AMONG THE TWENTY-SIX MEMBERS OF THE ACCREDITING COMMISSION FOR SCHOOLS.

WHEREAS, the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) is one of six regional accrediting associations in the United States; and

WHEREAS, WASC provides assistance to schools located in California, Hawaii, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas, American Samoa, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Fiji, and East Asia; and

WHEREAS, the affairs of WASC are administered by a board of directors composed of representatives from the following three commissions:

- (1) Accrediting Commission for Senior Colleges and Universities;
- (2) Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges; and
- (3) Accrediting Commission for Schools; and

WHEREAS, the Accrediting Commission for Schools is composed of twenty-six members, selected by the Commission's Nomination Review Committee from candidates nominated by member organizations of the Commission; and

WHEREAS, of the twenty-six members, thirteen represent California member organizations, three represent Hawaii member organizations, and the remainder represent other organizations; and

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WHEREAS, in addition, the California Department of Education and the Hawaii Department of Education each have an ex officio seat on the Commission; and

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WHEREAS, Hawaii's schools have graduated many distinguished alumni, including two presidents: the current and forty-fourth President of the United States, Barack Hussein Obama; and Dr. Sun Yat-sen, the first President of the Republic of China; and

WHEREAS, Hawaii's schools offer educational and career opportunities equal to any in the nation; and

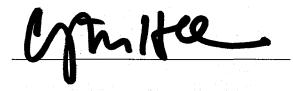
WHEREAS, Hawaii schools, both public and private, are accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges; and

WHEREAS, both the twenty-five member Accrediting Commission for Senior Colleges and Universities and the nineteen-member Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges are less restrictive in the geographic requirements of their membership; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fifth
Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2009, the
House of Representatives concurring, that the Western
Association of Schools and Colleges is requested to amend its
Constitution to reflect a more equitable geographic
representation among the twenty-six members of the Accrediting
Commission for Schools by increasing the representation from
Hawaii and decreasing the representation from California so that
the two states have equal numbers of members on the Accrediting
Commission for Schools; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of the Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Executive Director of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges, the Executive Director of the Hawaii Government Employees Association, the Executive Director of the Hawaii Association of Independent Schools, and the Superintendent of Education.

OFFERED BY:



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