
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE SUBMITTAL OF ANNUAL REPORTS AND THE CONVENING OF
SEMI-ANNUAL MEETINGS ON THE STATUS OF ITS REFORM
ACTIVITIES.

1 WHEREAS, the "Reinventing Education Act of 2004" (Act 51,
2 Session Laws of Hawaii 2004) omnibus legislation intends to
3 reshape the public education system in three ways:
4

5 (1) Empower principals and school communities with greater
6 authority, decision-making ability, and more control
7 over funds;
8

9 (2) Streamline procedures for schools to obtain resources
10 more quickly and easily through the reduction of red
11 tape and internal control of facilities, repair and
12 maintenance, and hiring of personnel; and
13

14 (3) Add accountability through school report cards and
15 performance contracts that provide greater
16 accountability for student achievement; and
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18 WHEREAS, the Race to the Top program is a \$4,350,000,000
19 fund that the United States Department of Education is using to
20 provide incentives to states to produce measurable student
21 gains; and
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23 WHEREAS, Hawaii has submitted its application and requested
24 \$78,000,000 to implement reform; and
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26 WHEREAS, in order to claim a share of Race to the Top
27 funds, all states are being pressed by the United States
28 Department of Education to implement four core reforms:
29

30 (1) Ensure that all students are truly prepared for
31 college or their chosen careers when they graduate and
32 are able to compete in the global economy;



- 1
- 2 (2) Track and report growth in student learning in a
- 3 timely manner and use that data to improve classroom
- 4 education;
- 5
- 6 (3) Ensure that all students have effective teachers and
- 7 that principals, especially those of schools in high
- 8 poverty and hard-to-staff areas, reward the best
- 9 teachers and improve or replace those who do not
- 10 perform well; and
- 11
- 12 (4) Turn around the lowest performing schools by
- 13 instituting far-reaching reforms, which could include
- 14 replacing staff or closing schools; and
- 15

16 WHEREAS, the State hopes to be awarded with a portion of
17 Race to the Top funds and proposes to use the funds to establish
18 Zones of School Innovation for the lowest performing five per
19 cent of schools in which incentives will be offered for
20 experienced educators with a track record of being highly
21 effective and the school day and year will be lengthened; and
22

23 WHEREAS, through accrediting agencies and federal
24 legislation such as the Race to the Top program, educators at
25 all levels are being required to assume responsibility for
26 student performance and progress, with emphasis shifting to
27 learning and assessment; and
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29 WHEREAS, since meaningful and reliable data of student
30 success, such as student achievement or progress, school
31 attendance, promotion rates, and college attendance rates, are
32 key to this effort, this data should be made available to
33 educators and the public on a timely basis to enable appropriate
34 adjustments and decisions that ultimately improve student
35 learning; and
36

37 WHEREAS, regardless of whether the Department of Education
38 is awarded Race to the Top funds or when funds are received, the
39 Department must commit to reform that improves student learning;
40 and
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42 WHEREAS, accountability is critical to ensure that reform
43 efforts continue, and principals and teachers need to take
44 responsibility for effectuating improved learning in schools and



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1 classrooms by reviewing data and applying professional skills to
 2 adjust priorities, processes, and methodologies to advance
 3 student progress; now, therefore,
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5 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fifth
 6 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2010, the
 7 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of
 8 Education is requested to submit annual reports to the
 9 Legislature on the status of its reform activities and to
 10 conduct semi-annual meetings with the Legislature on the status
 11 of its reform activities, where reform activities may include
 12 but not be limited to reorganization, repurposing resources,
 13 adjusting priorities and processes based on data, and
 14 implementing effective programs and methodologies; and
 15

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 17 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to Superintendent of
 18 Education, the Chairperson of the Board of Education, the Senate
 19 President, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.
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