

JAN 21 2010

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE AUDITOR TO CONDUCT A FINANCIAL AND MANAGEMENT
AUDIT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.

1 WHEREAS, the public school system has been under close
2 scrutiny for many years due to an inadequate delivery of
3 educational services and poor student achievement test results;
4 and
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6 WHEREAS, a lack of system-wide financial information and
7 administrative support prevents individual schools from
8 successfully functioning and performing their duties; and
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10 WHEREAS, despite the passage of Act 51, Session Laws of
11 Hawaii 2004, which implemented comprehensive reform in Hawaii's
12 public schools, the Department of Education still struggles to
13 provide quantifiable improvements in many areas, including
14 financial and management related problems; and
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16 WHEREAS, Act 51 established the weighted student formula to
17 provide an equitable distribution of funds to all students
18 across the State; and
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20 WHEREAS, the weighted student formula required an
21 understanding of sophisticated accounting systems to ensure
22 school principals received reliable and stable financial
23 forecasts and budget information; and
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25 WHEREAS, the level of expertise necessary to administer the
26 weighted student formula has not been without its problems,
27 leaving many principals confused over differing and changing
28 cost analyses prepared by the Department of Education; and
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30 WHEREAS, thirty per cent of the state budget is dedicated
31 to public education; and
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1 WHEREAS, to maximize the delivery of educational services
2 and justify the State's financial commitment to public
3 education, especially in view of the State's current economic
4 crisis, the Department of Education must improve its financial
5 and management accountability; and
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7 WHEREAS, an independent and impartial financial and
8 management audit of the Department of Education would provide
9 needed analyses and recommendations to improve the public
10 education system to ultimately benefit Hawaii's students; now,
11 therefore,
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13 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fifth
14 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2010, the
15 House of Representatives concurring, that the Auditor is
16 requested to conduct a financial and management audit of the
17 Department of Education; and
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19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Auditor is requested to
20 submit a report of any findings and recommendations to the
21 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
22 the Regular Session of 2011; and
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24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
25 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Auditor, the
26 Chairperson of the Board of Education, and the Superintendent of
27 Education.
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OFFERED BY:

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