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# HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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REQUESTING A FINANCIAL AND MANAGEMENT AUDIT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF  
EDUCATION.

1 WHEREAS, Hawaii's public education system has been  
2 criticized for its inadequate delivery of educational services  
3 and for poor student achievement; and  
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5 WHEREAS, the large bureaucracy of the Department of  
6 Education presents roadblocks that could prevent the Department  
7 of Education and the individual schools from successfully  
8 performing their duties and serving the needs of Hawaii's  
9 children; and  
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11 WHEREAS, recently, the Department became the subject of  
12 local and national news when furloughs were imposed in the  
13 public schools, which reduced the number of instructional days  
14 for students; and  
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16 WHEREAS, the Department's leadership was decentralized  
17 through the creation of the complex area system to place a  
18 greater number of decisions and more funds directly in the hands  
19 of individual school administrators; and  
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21 WHEREAS, Act 51, Session Laws of Hawaii 2004, was intended  
22 to implement comprehensive reform in Hawaii's public schools by,  
23 among other things:  
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25 (1) Reducing the bureaucracy that hampers the  
26 effectiveness of the Department of Education; and  
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28 (2) Focusing more resources and control at the individual  
29 school level; and  
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31 WHEREAS, today, the Department of Education remains under  
32 close public scrutiny, both locally and nationally; and



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2 WHEREAS, the public has raised many questions about the  
3 Department's operations, including its finances and management;  
4 and

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6 WHEREAS, a financial and management audit of the Department  
7 of Education is long overdue; and

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9 WHEREAS, an audit of the Department would improve critical  
10 educational services provided by this large taxpayer-funded  
11 institution that absorbs a large percentage of the state budget,  
12 by examining in-depth the effectiveness and efficiency of  
13 departmental operations, both at the management and  
14 administrative levels, including the:

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16 (1) Organization and management of the Department of  
17 Education, especially with regard to personnel; and

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19 (2) Efficacy of fiscal operations, especially with respect  
20 to spending and accountability; and

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22 WHEREAS, it is imperative that the Department remain  
23 committed to providing quality education for all of Hawaii's  
24 children, ensuring that all staff members and resources are  
25 dedicated to that mission; and

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27 WHEREAS, an audit would ensure that the Department of  
28 Education adheres to its mission to provide all of Hawaii's  
29 children with the tools they need to be successful in a global  
30 society; now, therefore,

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32 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
33 Twenty-sixth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
34 of 2011, the Senate concurring, that the Auditor is requested to  
35 perform a financial and management audit of the Department of  
36 Education that focuses on the departmental level; and

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38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Auditor is requested to  
39 submit a report of any findings and recommendations to the  
40 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of  
41 the Regular Session of 2012; and

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43 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
44 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Auditor, the



# H.C.R. NO. 34

1 Chairperson of the Board of Education, and the Superintendent of  
2 Education.  
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OFFERED BY:

*BTah*

*Della A. Belatti*

FEB - 2 2011

