HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO DEFER DECISION-MAKING ON THE CLOSURE OF LILIUOKALANI ELEMENTARY SCHOOL UNTIL THE NEW MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION ARE APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR AND SEATED.

WHEREAS, in November 2010, Hawaii voters approved a constitutional amendment that authorized the Governor to appoint members of the Board of Education; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature is currently holding hearings on measures that would determine an appropriate transition process from an elected Board of Education to an appointed Board of Education; and

WHEREAS, the current members of the Board of Education remain in their position only until the appropriate transition process is determined by the Legislature and approved and executed by the Governor; and

WHEREAS, the current elected members of the Board of Education will not necessarily be the same members that will constitute the upcoming appointed members of the Board of Education; and

WHEREAS, the occurrence of the transition from an elected Board of Education to an appointed Board of Education is imminent; and

WHEREAS, very important decisions continue to be placed before the elected members of the Board of Education, including whether to close Liliuokalani Elementary School; and

WHEREAS, Liliuokalani Elementary School is a community fixture and a place of pride and fond memories for the, students, alumni, and residents of Kaimuki; and

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WHEREAS, Liliuokalani Elementary School is truly a neighborhood school where sixty-three per cent of the students actually reside in the district area of the school, in contrast to other schools with a much lower percentage of district area students; and

WHEREAS, the proposed economic savings to the State by virtue of closing Liliuokalani Elementary School are uncertain; much of the projected savings will ultimately become expenses to the other schools that receive the students displaced from Liliuokalani Elementary; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Twenty-sixth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2011, the Senate concurring, that the current Board of Education is requested to defer decision-making on whether to close Liliuokalani Elementary School until the new Board of Education is appointed by the Governor and seated; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of Education and the Superintendent of Education.

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