MAR 1 0 2011

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO REPORT ON THE FEASIBILITY OF INCLUDING ENVIRONMENTAL CURRICULA AT EACH GRADE LEVEL.

WHEREAS, Hawaii's environment is unique, fragile, and of critical importance to the overall well-being of the people and wildlife of the State; and

WHEREAS, in order to preserve this environment all individuals and businesses in the state must make positive choices when it comes to decisions that may impact the environment; and

WHEREAS, knowledge of the uniqueness and importance of Hawaii's environment and awareness of the actions to take or avoid to preserve the environment are essential for the maintenance and preservation of the environment; and

WHEREAS, in many instances damage to the environment is incurred due to a lack of knowledge regarding the environmental consequences of certain actions; and

WHEREAS, inspiring positive behavior is most successful when impressed upon people while they are young; and

WHEREAS, it is the youth of today who will inherit the world of tomorrow and will need knowledge not only to wrestle with the environmental issues they inherit at that time, but also to mitigate the impact of those issues by understanding current environmental issues; and

WHEREAS, knowledge is gained and retained most effectively when consistently reinforced and expanded upon over a period of time; and

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WHEREAS, Hawaii's public schools are in an ideal setting in which to disseminate the knowledge and inspire the behavior necessary to contribute effectively to the preservation of Hawaii's environment; and

WHEREAS, California has recently released the first state-approved K-12 environmental curriculum in the United States as a pilot program in nineteen districts statewide; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-sixth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2011, the House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of Education is requested to study the feasibility of including grade appropriate environmental education curricula at each grade level; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a report to the Legislature regarding the feasibility of including grade appropriate environmental curricula at each grade level, including recommendations for legislation for implementation of environmental curricula, be submitted no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2013; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Superintendent of Education, the Chairperson of the Board of Education, and the Executive Director of the Charter School Administrative Office.

OFFERED BY: Alle Felt

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