
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII TO CREATE A TASK FORCE TO
DEVELOP A PLAN TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS IN
SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, AND MATHEMATICS MAJORS
RELEVANT TO INDUSTRY DEMANDS IN HAWAII.

1 WHEREAS, science, technology, engineering, and mathematics
2 (STEM) occupations are critical to economic competitiveness due
3 to their linkage to innovation, economic growth, and
4 productivity; and

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6 WHEREAS, occupations in STEM fields are the second-fastest
7 growing in the nation, yet studies are predicting that as many
8 as three million STEM-related jobs will be unfilled due to lack
9 of preparation beginning in 2018; and

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11 WHEREAS, recent mathematics scores from the Program for
12 International Student Assessment, an international assessment
13 that measures fifteen-year-old students' reading, mathematics,
14 and science literacy, show the United States average to be
15 thirteen points below the Organization for Economic Co-operation
16 and Development's average; and

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18 WHEREAS, a 2012 Career Ready Study commissioned by the
19 Hawaii P-20 Partnerships for Education shows that only thirty-
20 eight percent of surveyed employers in Hawaii found that new
21 hires were extremely or adequately prepared in mathematics
22 skills; and

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24 WHEREAS, one of the University of Hawaii's strategic
25 measures is to increase the number of University of Hawaii
26 degrees in STEM fields, in part through its STEM First
27 Initiative; and

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29 WHEREAS, the Legislature has provided support to the
30 University of Hawaii for its STEM First Initiative; and
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1 WHEREAS, there are large sums of funds from federal, state,
2 and private sources that contribute to STEM education and
3 outreach in the State; and
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5 WHEREAS, there is a general lack of coordination amongst
6 the numerous providers of STEM outreach, professional
7 development for teachers, and other STEM initiatives, resulting
8 in a duplication of efforts and inefficiencies in servicing
9 students and educators; now, therefore,
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11 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-seventh
12 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2014, the
13 House of Representatives concurring, that the University of
14 Hawaii is requested to create a task force to develop a plan to
15 increase the number of students in STEM majors relevant to
16 industry demands in Hawaii; and
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18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force include the
19 following members:
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- 21 (1) The President of the University of Hawaii System, or
22 the President's designee;
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- 24 (2) The Superintendent of Education, or the
25 Superintendent's designee;
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- 27 (3) The Executive Director of the Hawaii P-20 Partnerships
28 for Education, or the Executive Director's designee;
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- 30 (4) Members of the faculty from science, math,
31 engineering, or other relevant technology fields
32 representing the various campuses of the University of
33 Hawaii, to be selected by the University of Hawaii
34 Professional Assembly; and
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- 36 (5) Members representing various sectors from STEM
37 industries and business in the State, to be selected
38 by the Governor; and
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40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to:
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- 42 (1) Conduct a mapping exercise and report on current
43 initiatives that impact STEM readiness for students,
44 including initiatives that increase preparedness of



1 Department of Education and University of Hawaii
2 students for STEM majors or for STEM careers,
3 including the type of initiatives, source of funding,
4 targeted student groups, numbers of students in the
5 targeted student groups, and proven impact;
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7 (2) Establish findings and recommend solutions to increase
8 the readiness of students to pursue STEM fields; and
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10 (3) Explore and identify trends in workforce needs in
11 various STEM fields in Hawaii; and
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13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the University of Hawaii submit
14 a report to the Legislature of the task force's findings,
15 recommendations, overall plan, and any proposed legislation no
16 later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular
17 Session of 2015; and
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19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
20 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, President
21 of the University of Hawaii, Superintendent of Education,
22 University of Hawaii Professional Assembly, and Executive
23 Director of Hawaii P-20 Partnerships for Education.
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