

MAR 10 2016

S.R. NO. 49

SENATE RESOLUTION

ENCOURAGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO REVIEW FINLAND'S
EDUCATION MODEL AND INCORPORATE MAJOR ATTRIBUTES OF THE
MODEL INTO HAWAII'S EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM.

1 WHEREAS, Finland was not succeeding educationally in the
2 1970s; and

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4 WHEREAS, Finland rebuilt its education system and, since
5 2000, has consistently ranked high in the Programme for
6 International Student Assessment study, which compares national
7 educational systems internationally; and

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9 WHEREAS, the Finnish National Board of Education states
10 that the main objective of Finnish education policy is to offer
11 all citizens equal opportunities to receive education; and

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13 WHEREAS, the Finnish system focuses on learning rather than
14 testing; therefore, there are no national tests for students in
15 basic education and, instead, teachers are responsible for
16 assessment in their respective subjects on the basis of the
17 objectives included in the curriculum; and

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19 WHEREAS, teachers in Finland are highly trained and
20 required to have obtained a Master's degree, which is provided
21 as free higher education; and

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23 WHEREAS, the only national examination in Finland, the
24 matriculation examination, is held at the end of general upper
25 secondary education and its results are commonly used in
26 determining admission to higher education; and

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28 WHEREAS, Finland has focused governance based on the
29 principle of decentralization since the early 1990s by allowing
30 education providers to be responsible for practical teaching
31 arrangements, as well as the effectiveness and quality of the
32 education provided, and allowing local authorities to determine
33 how much autonomy is passed on to schools, including budget
34 management, acquisitions, and recruitment; and
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WHEREAS, most education and training in Finland is publically funded, there are no tuition fees at any level of education, and basic education school materials, school meals, and commuting are provided free of charge; and

WHEREAS, the United States has consistently ranked lower than Finland in the Programme for International Student Assessment study; and

WHEREAS, the average National Assessment of Educational Progress score of students in Hawaii has been consistently below the national average; and

WHEREAS, an improved education system in Hawaii will lead to improved careers and opportunities for the children and youth of Hawaii; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-eighth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2016, that the Department of Education is encouraged to review Finland's education model and incorporate, to the greatest extent possible, the major attributes of the system into Hawaii's educational system; and

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

OFFERED BY:

Franne Chun Oakland
[Signature]
Nichelle Lani

