

MAR 10 2017

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO ESTABLISH A VOCATIONAL
EDUCATION OUT-OF-SCHOOL PROGRAM.

1 WHEREAS, research confirms that quality out-of-school
2 programs inspire and motivate children to learn, support
3 children's social and emotional growth, and help raise academic
4 achievement; and

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6 WHEREAS, many school-aged children in the State are raised
7 by working families who cannot afford the high costs of child
8 care and are therefore unable to access out-of-school programs;
9 and

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11 WHEREAS, according to a 2016 report by ChildCare Aware of
12 America, Hawaii is the ninth least affordable state for the cost
13 of before-school or after-school care for school-aged children
14 in child care centers, as a percentage of medium income of
15 parents; and

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17 WHEREAS, the Afterschool Alliance reports that seventeen
18 percent of Hawaii K-12 youth are responsible for their own care
19 after school and that thirty-eight percent of all Hawaii
20 children who are not enrolled in an after-school program would
21 be likely to participate in a program if one were available in
22 the community; and

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24 WHEREAS, the Statewide Point-In-Time Count published
25 January 24, 2016, indicated that approximately 1,935 children in
26 Hawaii are homeless and could benefit from a safe, structured
27 out-of-school environment; and

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29 WHEREAS, there also exists a significant job skills gap
30 within the State's workforce; and
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1 WHEREAS, there is a lack of qualified workers to fill
2 available jobs in industries with careers demanding skills in
3 computer science, coding, engineering, and foreign language; and
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5 WHEREAS, vocational education programs can help narrow the
6 existing job skills gap by preparing students to work in a trade
7 by exposing students to trade, craft, or technical careers such
8 as engineering, computer science, accountancy, nursing,
9 medicine, architecture, hospitality, or agribusiness; and
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11 WHEREAS, vocational education programs can also be aligned
12 with the school day to complement, but not duplicate, arts,
13 culture, literacy, fitness, foreign language, math, science,
14 character development, and community service; and
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16 WHEREAS, many other states have supported policies that
17 expand learning opportunities by offering structured learning
18 environments outside the traditional school day hours through
19 out-of-school programs that provide a range of enrichment and
20 learning activities in various subjects, including arts, civic
21 engagement, language, and science, technology, engineering, and
22 mathematics to advance a range of state education and youth
23 goals; and
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25 WHEREAS, Hawaii should follow the lead of these other
26 states by developing its own vocational education out-of-school
27 programs to help address poverty, brain drain, and the job
28 skills gap within the local workforce; now, therefore,
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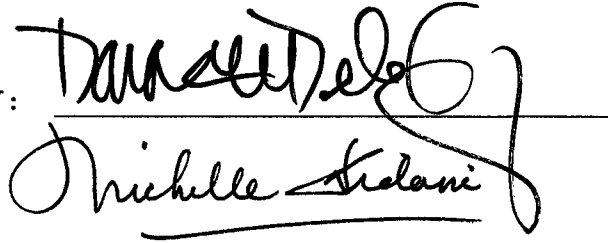
30 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-ninth
31 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2017, the
32 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of
33 Education is urged to establish a vocational education out-of-
34 school program for the State's public and charter school
35 students, in grades nine through twelve, to be conducted during
36 after-school hours, on weekends, and during inter-sessions; and
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
2 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the
3 Board of Education and the Superintendent of Education.
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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dr. R. H. B." with a stylized flourish underneath.

OFFERED BY:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michelle Steloni", written over a horizontal line.