

MAR 10 2017

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



