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HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A GLOBAL EDUCATION STUDENT EXCHANGE PROGRAM BETWEEN CHINA AND HAWAII FOR LOW-INCOME MINORITY STUDENTS.

WHEREAS, the Legislature finds that intermediate and high school students who live in poverty and who are members of racial and ethnic minority groups have lower high school graduation rates and lower levels of achievement, especially in science and mathematics; and

WHEREAS, the academic disparity is especially prevalent with minority male high school students who are reported to be at a high risk of dropping out of high school; and

WHEREAS, low-income minority students from Hawaii are rarely exposed to transformative academic ideas from other countries and can benefit from a global education student exchange program that offers eligible students the opportunity to study at private international schools that have high graduation rates and desegregated environments that promote mentorship among students, teachers, and business people; and

WHEREAS, a China-based global education student exchange pilot program offered to eligible American high school students in 2018 through 2023 and endorsed by the Education Advancement Fund International (EAFI), a United States based nonprofit organization founded and run by a professor of political science at the University of Hawaii, has gained approval from nearly 100 participating schools in China, Japan, Singapore, Malaysia, Korea, Taiwan, and Hong Kong; and

WHEREAS, EAFI's mission is to educate poor rural minority children, promote gender equity, and further the ideals of world peace by creating international understanding on a personal basis; and

WHEREAS, EAFI has created innovative and cost-efficient solutions to educate girls and handicapped students living in rural China, provided free meals and scholarships to needy students in China, and founded an art gallery in rural Guangdong, China that is dedicated to help disabled students gain an education; and

WHEREAS, the State needs to increase low-income minority students' access to experiences provided in student exchange programs, such as the China-based global education student exchange pilot program that offers eligible American high school students the opportunity to learn mathematics, entrepreneurship, and foreign languages at private international schools with the goal of gaining college admission; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the State to assist low-income minority students from Hawaii so they may achieve educational success and live healthy and productive lives; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2018, that the Department of Education is requested to establish a global education student exchange program between Hawaii and China for low-income minority students; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Superintendent of Education and the Director of the Education Advancement Fund International.

OFFERED BY:

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