

MAR 09 2018

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND
TOURISM TO STUDY THE FEASIBILITY OF A STATE LOTTERY TO FUND
HAWAII'S PUBLIC EDUCATION.

1 WHEREAS, compared to other states, Hawaii is unique because
2 the State, rather than a county or local level jurisdiction, is
3 responsible for public education; and
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5 WHEREAS, as a result, funding for public education in
6 Hawaii is primarily sourced from the general fund of the State;
7 and
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9 WHEREAS, public education in Hawaii is not adequately
10 funded, as Hawaii's education expenditures rank lowest in the
11 nation; and
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13 WHEREAS, lagging state education expenditures drive Hawaii
14 families to compete for private school enrollment, leaving
15 Hawaii with one of the highest rates of private school
16 enrollment in the nation; and
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18 WHEREAS, continuous underfunding of public schools
19 undermines the State's goal of providing a quality education to
20 all of Hawaii's children; and
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22 WHEREAS, it is necessary to develop a new means of funding
23 Hawaii's public education system to ensure that the State will
24 be able to prepare children to meet the social and economic
25 demands of the twenty-first century; and
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27 WHEREAS, for forty-four states, state lotteries represent a
28 small, but valuable source of revenue; and
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30 WHEREAS, on average, about one percent of state revenue
31 comes from lotteries; and
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33 WHEREAS, nationally, in fiscal year 2015, state lotteries
34 generated \$66,800,000,000 in gross revenue; and
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S.R. NO. 131

1 WHEREAS, after costs for prizes, administration, and
2 advertising, states were still left with net lottery proceeds of
3 \$21,400,000,000; and
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5 WHEREAS, funding public education is an important goal and
6 a shared responsibility that can be achieved through creative
7 solutions to provide sufficient revenues to fund quality
8 education in the State; now, therefore,
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10 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-ninth
11 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2018,
12 that the Department of Business, Economic Development, and
13 Tourism is requested to study the feasibility of a state lottery
14 to fund Hawaii's public education; and
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16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Business,
17 Economic Development, and Tourism submit a report of its
18 findings and recommendations to the Legislature no later than
19 twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of
20 2019; and
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22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
23 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Business, Economic
24 Development, and Tourism; Chair of the Board of Education; and
25 Superintendent of Education.
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OFFERED BY:

Armande Brown

