THE SENATE THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE, 2020 STATE OF HAWAII

S.C.R. NO. 227

MAR - 6 2020

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, IN COLLABORATION WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII, DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS, AND DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM, DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT A K-12 CURRICULUM-TO-CAREER PIPELINE INITIATIVE.

1 WHEREAS, there is a disconnect between the needs and 2 expectations of today's employers and the skills of the State's workforce; and 3 4 WHEREAS, industries in the State increasingly require 5 employees with technology-based skills such as computer science 6 7 and coding and engineering, and second language skills; and 8 9 WHEREAS, the current low unemployment rate has made it 10 difficult to fill technology-based positions, and business and 11 education groups report that few individuals in the State have the necessary job skills for available job openings; and 12 13 14 WHEREAS, closing the skills gap for science, technology, engineering, and mathematics positions is extremely important, 15 as jobs in these sectors are expected to grow 1.7 times faster 16 than other jobs in the coming years; and 17 18 19 WHEREAS, Honolulu has not been able to keep up with the rising demand for science, technology, engineering, and 20 21 mathematics professionals, and according to a 2018 analysis of 22 the best metropolitan areas for these professionals, Honolulu ranked eighty-second out of one hundred; and 23 24 25 WHEREAS, Hawaii has also experienced difficulty retaining highly-skilled workers in the State, and a recent United States 26 Census report found that more than thirteen thousand people 27 28 moved out of Hawaii than moved in from other states; and



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WHEREAS, improving job training and more closely aligning education with employment will help close the current skills gap and may encourage more skilled workers to remain in the State, thereby strengthening the State's overall economy; now, therefore,

7 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirtieth Legislature 8 of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2020, the House of 9 Representatives concurring, that the Department of Education, in 10 collaboration with the University of Hawaii; Department of Labor 11 and Industrial Relations; and Department of Business, Economic 12 Development, and Tourism; is requested to develop and implement 13 a K-12 Curriculum-to-Career Pipeline Initiative; and 14

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the K-12 Curriculum-to-Career Pipeline Initiative be developed and implemented to enable students to pursue training and education throughout their time at a school complex so that upon graduation, the students possess the appropriate skills, certifications, licensing, or college credits necessary to enter the State's workforce; and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this 23 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the 24 Board of Education; President of the University of Hawaii 25 System; Director of Labor and Industrial Relations; and Director 26 of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism.

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OFFERED BY:

