
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT A
PLAN TO REDUCE THE USE OF EXTERNAL CONTRACTS FOR CURRICULA,
INSTRUCTION, AND TESTING IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

1 WHEREAS, a report by the Department of Education's Office
2 of Hawaiian Education found that cultural dissonance in schools,
3 or "the tension students feel as a result of incongruence
4 between their cultural meaning-making-systems and new cultural
5 information they encounter", was a predictive indicator of
6 achievement gaps for Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander
7 students; and

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9 WHEREAS, this cultural dissonance can be mitigated through
10 culturally appropriate curricula that affirms students' unique
11 cultural and historical backgrounds and identities; and

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13 WHEREAS, the Legislature finds that the ethnic and
14 socioeconomic diversity of Hawaii's public school student
15 population requires such place-based and culturally appropriate
16 curricula; and

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18 WHEREAS, the Department of Education's contract with
19 Acellus Learning Accelerator during the COVID-19 pandemic
20 exposed thousands of students to content that was biased against
21 racial, sexual, and gender minorities, and reflected an
22 inaccurate, incomplete, or prejudicial view of historical
23 events; and

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25 WHEREAS, in October 2020, concerns raised by parents,
26 teachers, and community members led the Board of Education to
27 unanimously vote to phase out the Acellus Learning Accelerator
28 and virtual learning program by the end of the 2020-2021 school
29 year; and



1 WHEREAS, in November 2020, the Department of Education
2 released its report affirming those concerns and finding that
3 the Acellus lessons were not aligned with Hawaii content
4 performance standards; and

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6 WHEREAS, empowering professionals who are most directly
7 involved with instructional delivery, especially teachers, to
8 develop learning materials will ensure that students are
9 provided with educational opportunities that are culturally
10 sensitive and account for different learning styles; now,
11 therefore,

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13 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
14 Thirty-first Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
15 of 2021, the Senate concurring, that the Department of
16 Education, in consultation with the Board of Education, is urged
17 to develop and implement a plan to reduce the use of external
18 contracts for curricula, instruction, and testing in public
19 schools, including recommendations for additional steps to
20 reduce external contracts; and

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22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is
23 urged to convene an advisory committee to make recommendations
24 to assist the Department in developing and implementing the
25 aforementioned plan; and

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27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the advisory committee include
28 members from the exclusive representative for bargaining unit 5
29 and bargaining unit 6 and other stakeholders deemed appropriate
30 by the Department of Education; and

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32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is
33 requested to submit to the Legislature reports of its progress
34 in developing and implementing the plan, as follows:

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36 (1) An interim report, including a list of advisory
37 committee members, findings, recommendations, and a
38 timeline for completing the plan and its
39 implementation, no later than twenty days prior to the
40 convening of the Regular Session of 2022; and



1 (2) A final report which shall include the plan and any
2 proposed legislation to implement the plan, if
3 necessary, no later than twenty days prior to the
4 convening of the Regular Session of 2023; and
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6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
7 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor,
8 Chairperson of the Board of Education, and Superintendent of
9 Education.

