

MAR 12 2021

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO CREATE A LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT PLAN WITH GOALS TO INCREASE TREE CANOPIES ON PUBLIC SCHOOL GROUNDS, DOCUMENT EXISTING INVENTORY AND TALENT, AND IDENTIFY ADDITIONAL RESOURCES REQUIRED TO IMPLEMENT AND SUSTAIN THE PLAN.

1 WHEREAS, the average temperature in Hawaii has increased
2 over two degrees since 1950; and

3
4 WHEREAS, the increase in hot days makes it difficult for
5 students to learn at school; and

6
7 WHEREAS, as a result, the Department of Education has
8 responded with a heat abatement plan, and the State has invested
9 in air conditioning for over one thousand three hundred
10 classrooms; and

11
12 WHEREAS, school grounds enhance student learning and
13 success, as they offer a venue for play, outdoor learning, and
14 social gatherings; and

15
16 WHEREAS, on very hot days, these activities become
17 uncomfortable and even unsafe; and

18
19 WHEREAS, trees lower temperatures through shade,
20 transpiration, and reduction of the heat island effect; and

21
22 WHEREAS, increasing the tree canopy on school grounds will
23 enable students to continue to play, learn, and gather outside,
24 even as the temperature rises; and

25
26 WHEREAS, trees on school campuses will also absorb storm
27 water, clean the air, beautify campuses, and help reach county
28 and state environmental goals; and



1 WHEREAS, an abundance of trees on school campuses would
 2 help cool each campus and provide a multitude of learning
 3 opportunities, including learning the role trees play in the
 4 overall health of the ecosystem, cultural uses of indigenous
 5 trees, tree propagation and care, commercial uses of trees, and
 6 participation in community programs that promote tree planting;
 7 and

8
 9 WHEREAS, currently, there are fragmented initiatives to
 10 plant trees on different campuses; and

11
 12 WHEREAS, increasing the tree canopy on school grounds
 13 statewide requires the creation of tools by the Department of
 14 Education to guide tree selection, placement, and care; and

15
 16 WHEREAS, one tool needed is a Tree Manual with current
 17 arboricultural principals and industry standards; and

18
 19 WHEREAS, another tool needed is a landscape management plan
 20 that would help set, meet statewide timelines and deliverables,
 21 and be updated every five years; now, therefore,

22
 23 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first
 24 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2021, the
 25 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of
 26 Education is requested to create a landscape management plan
 27 with goals to increase tree canopies on public school grounds,
 28 document existing inventory and talent, and identify additional
 29 resources required to implement and sustain the plan; and

30
 31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 32 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Superintendent of
 33 Education and Chairperson of the Board of Education.

34
 35
 36 OFFERED BY:


