

MAR 12 2021

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## SENATE 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



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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,  
25 that the Department of Education is requested to create a  
26 landscape management plan with goals to increase tree canopies  
27 on public school grounds, document existing inventory and  
28 talent, and identify additional resources required to implement  
29 and sustain the plan; and

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

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35  
36 OFFERED BY: 

