HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO ENSURE THAT CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION STANDARDS FOCUS ON PLACE-BASED RESPONSIVENESS TO CLIMATE CHANGE AND PREPARING STUDENTS TO ENGAGE IN A GROWING GREEN ECONOMY.

WHEREAS, Hawaii faces an uncertain future as the global climate crisis intensifies and puts the health of Hawaii's people, environment, and economy at risk; and

WHEREAS, surviving and adapting to the climate crisis demands that the State proactively transition to a green economy that protects Hawaii's natural resources for future generations while providing good jobs for the people of Hawaii; and

WHEREAS, indigenous knowledge plays a central role in the development of place-based responses to the climate crisis; and

WHEREAS, Native Hawaiian science, culture, knowledge, and values grounded in Hawaii's unique ecosystems are crucial to the development of a green economy that preserves, enriches, and respects the State's environment; and

WHEREAS, providing the next generation of keiki with a strong grounding in Native Hawaiian knowledge is essential to empowering them to be active participants in a just transition to a regenerative economy that honors Hawaii's unique sense of place; and

WHEREAS, career and technical education programs have a crucial role to play in preparing students to participate in this green workforce and allowing students to explore potential career pathways in sustainable industries; and

WHEREAS, career and technical education programs across all career pathways must be reoriented to prepare Hawaii's students to enter the workforce as responsible stewards of the 'āina; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Thirty-first Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2022, the Senate concurring, that the Department of Education is requested to ensure that career and technical education standards focus on place-based responsiveness to climate change and preparing students to engage in a growing green economy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is requested to include meaningful engagement with key local, state, and federal agencies; leading community-based nonprofit organizations; community stakeholders; the University of Hawaii System; K-12 educators; and the wide-range of organizations who prioritize mālama 'āina and aloha 'āina at every step of the standards development process; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is requested to engage the Office of Hawaiian Education as a critical partner at every step of the process of developing the Department of Education's revised career and technical education program standards are in alignment with the Nā Hopena A'o framework; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Interim Superintendent of Education.