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## HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO CONTRACT WITH A  
QUALIFIED NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION TO ESTABLISH AN AQUATIC  
SAFETY EDUCATION PROGRAM FOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENTS.

1           WHEREAS, drowning is a tragic but preventable cause of  
2 injury and death in the State, especially among children; and

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4           WHEREAS, according to the Department of Health, drowning  
5 was the leading cause of injury-related mortality for Hawaii's  
6 children between 2014 and 2018; and

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8           WHEREAS, more children died by drowning than in motor  
9 vehicle and pedestrian accidents combined, and an alarmingly  
10 large proportion of those child drownings were among resident  
11 children; and

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13           WHEREAS, during the same period, there were an annual  
14 average of seventy non-fatal child drowning incidents attended  
15 by emergency medical services; and

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17           WHEREAS, although individuals who experience non-fatal  
18 drowning incidents escape with their lives, some are left with  
19 severe brain damage and may face long-term disabilities such as  
20 memory problems, learning disabilities, or permanent losses of  
21 basic functions, a disorder often referred to as a persistent  
22 vegetative state; and

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24           WHEREAS, many drowning deaths could be prevented through  
25 aquatic safety education programs; and

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27           WHEREAS, the International Life Saving Federation's  
28 Position Statement for Swimming and Safety Education recommends  
29 that everyone have access to training in water safety, personal  
30 survival, and water rescue; and



1           WHEREAS, the International Life Saving Federation  
2 recommends that this training be available to everyone  
3 regardless of ability and background and should commence at the  
4 earliest possible age; and

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6           WHEREAS, despite these recommendations, many of Hawaii's  
7 youth do not have the opportunity to receive aquatic safety  
8 instruction; and

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10           WHEREAS, less than ten percent of public and public charter  
11 elementary schools integrate aquatic safety education into their  
12 physical education curricula; and

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14           WHEREAS, outside of schools, municipal aquatic safety  
15 programs lack the resources to meet public demand, and the cost  
16 of obtaining private lessons is often cost-prohibitive for many  
17 local families; and

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19           WHEREAS, as a result, many children are inadequately  
20 prepared for water-related emergencies; and

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22           WHEREAS, an assessment of Hawaii students conducted by the  
23 Hawaii Aquatics Academy during the 2018-2019 school year found  
24 that only thirty-one percent of participating students could  
25 swim for twenty-five yards, only twelve percent could float for  
26 thirty seconds, and only thirteen percent could tread water for  
27 sixty seconds; and

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29           WHEREAS, all children should be provided equal access to  
30 standards-based aquatic safety education programs; and

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32           WHEREAS, to achieve this, aquatic safety education should  
33 be integrated into the health and physical education curricula  
34 of public schools; and

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36           WHEREAS, providing proper training in water safety,  
37 personal survival, and water rescue will help to ensure that the  
38 State's youth, especially those from low- and moderate-income  
39 communities, know how to avoid and recover from hazardous  
40 aquatic situations; now, therefore,  
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# H.C.R. NO. 75

1 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
2 Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
3 Session of 2023, the Senate concurring, that the Department of  
4 Education is requested to contract with a qualified nonprofit  
5 organization to establish an aquatic safety education program;  
6 and

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8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this aquatic safety education  
9 program be offered to elementary school students during regular  
10 school hours; and

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12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
13 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor,  
14 Chairperson of the Board of Education, and Superintendent of  
15 Education.

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OFFERED BY:

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MAR - 9 2023

