

MAR 09 2023

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO REVIEW VARIOUS PROGRAMS AND
SUBJECT MATTER AREAS FOR IMPLEMENTATION IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

1 WHEREAS, the Board of Education has a constitutional
2 mandate to formulate statewide educational policy over the
3 public school system set forth by Article X, Section 3, of the
4 Hawaii State Constitution; and

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6 WHEREAS, providing Hawaii's keiki with high quality
7 educational experiences is of paramount importance to ensuring
8 success for Hawaii's future generations; and

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10 WHEREAS, reliable transportation promotes school attendance
11 and ensures all keiki have access to high quality education
12 across the State; and

13
14 WHEREAS, reliable transportation methods such as bicycles
15 provide numerous benefits, including physical exercise, fewer
16 financial expenses, greater flexibility than public
17 transportation, and no carbon dioxide emissions; and

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19 WHEREAS, Act 306, Session Laws of Hawaii 2022, authorizes
20 the Department of Transportation to issue rebates for electric
21 bicycles and electric mopeds for individuals who are eighteen
22 years or older; and

23
24 WHEREAS, teenagers in high school would particularly
25 benefit from subsidized bicycles as students must commute
26 between home and school, may work part-time jobs, and often lack
27 the financial resources to purchase a motor vehicle or other
28 modes of transportation; and

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30 WHEREAS, providing subsidized bicycles through a bicycle
31 grant program would alleviate low attendance rates and chronic
32 tardiness, and allow students to spend more time in the
33 classroom learning; and



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2 WHEREAS, civic education helps develop critical thinking
3 skills that are vital to the functioning of a democratic nation,
4 including how to recognize social problems, evaluate possible
5 solutions, separate evidence-based claims from opinions, and
6 taking action; and

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8 WHEREAS, in 2018, the Board of Education adopted the Hawaii
9 Core Standards in social studies, which outline content,
10 concepts, and inquiry skills students need to reason, wonder,
11 and think about the vastness and richness of the human
12 condition; and

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14 WHEREAS, the Hawaii Core Standards in social studies also
15 integrate and encompass the democratic values, civility, and
16 global perspective needed to support the development of critical
17 thinking and habits of mind that are the hallmark of a mature,
18 community-minded citizen; and

19
20 WHEREAS, the proliferation of disinformation,
21 misinformation, digital discrimination, and online hate speech
22 have become larger, pervasive threats to modern society; and

23
24 WHEREAS, disinformation and online hate speech have been
25 linked to outbursts of violence in the real world; and

26
27 WHEREAS, engaging students in the pursuit of active and
28 informed citizenship will connect students to the world through
29 informed instructional experiences that are led by teachers who
30 are committed to active civic participation; and

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32 WHEREAS, implementing civic education and media literacy
33 programs teaches students to not only acquire knowledge but
34 develop the skills to engage in the workings of a democracy and
35 practice of democratic citizenship while also being cognizant of
36 the danger of disinformation, misinformation, digital
37 discrimination, and online hate speech; and

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39 WHEREAS, financial education is a lifelong learning process
40 that empowers individuals to plan for their futures; and



1 WHEREAS, historically, the education system has assumed
2 that students learn important financial skills from their
3 families; and

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5 WHEREAS, not all students are being taught the financial
6 skills they will need to be successful later in life; and

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8 WHEREAS, the lack of financial literacy poses a significant
9 barrier for individuals seeking to achieve financial prosperity
10 and stability, especially for younger individuals who are
11 preparing to become heads of households, investors,
12 entrepreneurs, business leaders, and responsible citizens; and

13
14 WHEREAS, the creation of a financial literacy curriculum
15 would not only prepare Hawaii's keiki in economic and financial
16 matters, but would also promote the development of fiscal
17 responsibility and financial management skills; and

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19 WHEREAS, sign language is a powerful communication tool for
20 those with hearing or speech disorders, autism spectrum
21 disorders, dyslexia, specific language impairments, Down
22 Syndrome, and other disabilities; and

23
24 WHEREAS, American Sign Language, or ASL, is a vital part of
25 the linguistic heritage of the State that benefits and enriches
26 hearing-impaired and non-hearing-impaired individuals; and

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28 WHEREAS, Act 152, Session Laws of Hawaii 2016, recognizes
29 American Sign Language as a world language for public school
30 language requirement purposes; and

31
32 WHEREAS, while fluency in American Sign Language is a
33 marketable skill, the lack of American Sign Language courses in
34 Hawaii public schools makes it difficult to meet the needs of
35 hearing-impaired students in their studies and educate students
36 who are interested in studying American Sign Language; and

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38 WHEREAS, public school students with deaf siblings or other
39 family members would also benefit from the opportunity to
40 acquire American Sign Language skills in an educational setting,
41 as it would improve their ability to communicate with deaf
42 family members; and



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2 WHEREAS, developing additional programs in American Sign
3 Language will create accessible education for all students in
4 the public school system; and

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6 WHEREAS, creating programs within public education that go
7 beyond traditional academic subjects will prepare Hawaii's keiki
8 to become well-rounded citizens while also preparing them to
9 accomplish future academic, career, and life goals; now,
10 therefore,

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12 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second
13 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2023, the
14 House of Representatives concurring, that the Board of Education
15 is requested to review various subject matter areas for
16 consideration in public school curriculum; and

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18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, specifically, the Board of
19 Education is requested to consider the following programs and
20 curriculum for implementation in public schools:

- 21
22 (1) Bicycle grants;
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24 (2) Media literacy;
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26 (3) Civic education;
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28 (4) Financial literacy; and
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30 (5) American Sign Language; and

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

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37 OFFERED BY: Michelle A. Tedani

