H.R. NO. 110

HOUSE RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO REQUIRE STUDENTS TO
COMPLETE AND PASS THE CIVICS PORTION OF THE UNITED STATES
CITIZENSHIP TEST IN ORDER TO GRADUATE FROM HIGH SCHOOL OR
OBTAIN A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA.

1   WHEREAS, a basic understanding of United States civics and
2 history is essential to becoming actively engaged citizens; and
3
4   WHEREAS, in 2015 Arizona became the first state to require
5 high school students to pass the United States citizenship test
6 on civics before they can graduate; and
7
8   WHEREAS, the questions listed on the high school test are
9 identical to the civics portion of the naturalization test
10 administered by the United States Citizenship and Immigration
11 Services; and
12
13   WHEREAS, the test questions cover various topics in United
14 States history, the Constitution of the United States, and
15 government; and
16
17   WHEREAS, several other states joined Arizona in requiring
18 students to pass the test in order to graduate; and
19
20   WHEREAS, promoting civic education encourages Hawaii's
21 youth to stay informed and engaged; now, therefore,
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23   BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
24 Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
25 Session of 2024, that the Department of Education is urged to
26 require students to complete and pass the civics portion of the
27 United States citizenship test in order to graduate from high
28 school or obtain a high school diploma; and
29

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1   BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Department of Education is
2   requested to provide all students, beginning with students
3   entering the ninth grade, with an opportunity to take the test
4   at least once per school year and allow them to repeat the test
5   as often as necessary to demonstrate proficiency; and
6
7   BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
8   Resolution be transmitted to the Superintendent of Education,
9   Chairperson of the Board of Education, and President of the
10 Hawaii State Teachers Association.
11
12
13   OFFERED BY: _____

MAR - 8 2024