

MAR 08 2024

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO PARTNER WITH THE HAWAII STATE TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION AND TEACHER EDUCATION PROGRAMS AT LOCAL UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES TO PROVIDE PATHWAYS FOR SCHOOL SUPPORT PERSONNEL TO BECOME FULL-TIME TEACHERS.

1 WHEREAS, the State is suffering from a severe shortage of
2 licensed teachers; and

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4 WHEREAS, the Department of Education has two hundred fifty-
5 eight public schools that serve more than one hundred sixty-
6 eight thousand students and employs twenty-two thousand
7 teachers, librarians, counselors, educational officers, and
8 other school support staff; and

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10 WHEREAS, in the 2021-2022 academic year, the Department of
11 Education experienced a 12.3 percent increase in public school
12 teacher turnover, with nine hundred twenty teachers who resigned
13 and three hundred ten teachers who retired; and

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15 WHEREAS, school support staff, such as aides and service
16 staff, are also experiencing a high rate of turnover, with nine
17 hundred thirty-eight school support staff who left the
18 Department of Education in the 2021-2022 academic year; and

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20 WHEREAS, certain school support personnel, such as
21 education assistants, para-professional teachers, part-time
22 teachers, and extended hire substitute teachers play a critical
23 role in the classroom by assisting teachers with instruction and
24 one-to-one support for students with special needs; and

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26 WHEREAS, while school support personnel have extensive
27 experience with instructional delivery, classroom operation, and
28 pedagogy, many school support personnel who choose to enroll in
29 teacher certification programs do not receive course credit for
30 their classroom work and experience; and



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2 WHEREAS, school support personnel must sacrifice a semester
3 of income to complete required student teaching experiences as a
4 requirement to complete teacher education programs that award
5 teacher certification; and
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7 WHEREAS, school support personnel who are pursuing careers
8 as full-time teachers would benefit from being able to earn
9 course credit for their work in the classroom, and by providing
10 more convenient pathways to obtain the requisites to become a
11 full-time teacher more individuals may become interested in
12 pursuing teaching careers, which would help the State's current
13 teacher shortage; now, therefore,
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15 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second
16 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2024, the
17 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of
18 Education is requested to partner with the Hawaii State
19 Teachers' Association and Hawaii teacher education programs to
20 provide pathways for school support personnel to become full-
21 time teachers; and
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23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is
24 requested to target educational assistants, para-professional
25 teachers, extended hire substitute teachers, and part-time
26 teachers for the full-time teacher pathway; and
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28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is
29 requested to collaborate with higher education partners across
30 the State to develop pathways that allow students with relevant
31 work experience in a school support personnel role to be
32 credited for work experience towards required course credits;
33 and
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35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
36 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Superintendent of
37 Education, Chair of the Board of Education, President of the
38 Hawaii State Teachers Association, President of the University
39 of Hawaii, President of Chaminade University of Honolulu,



1 President of Hawaii Pacific University, and President of Brigham
2 Young University Hawaii.

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OFFERED BY:



