
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO AMEND ITS POLICY ON VALEDICTORIAN DESIGNATION TO EXCLUSIVELY RECOGNIZE STUDENTS WITH EXCEPTIONAL ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS, AS DEMONSTRATED BY THEIR ACADEMIC HONORS, GRADE POINT AVERAGE, AND PERFORMANCE IN RIGOROUS ACADEMIC COURSES.

1 WHEREAS, the title of valedictorian traditionally
2 represents the person who has reached the highest level of
3 academic achievement within a graduating class; and
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5 WHEREAS, for example, the Oxford English Dictionary, in
6 part, defines "valedictorian" to mean "a student, typically
7 having the highest academic achievements of the class . . .";
8 and
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10 WHEREAS, academics, notably the core subjects of Language
11 Arts, Social Studies, Math, and Science, are the most
12 fundamental aspect of the education system and an individual
13 demonstrating academic excellence in these fields reflects the
14 exceptional dedication, intellectual rigor, and mastery of
15 course content that deserves to be rightfully awarded; and
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17 WHEREAS, the Department of Education's existing policy of
18 valedictorian designation allows a student to be declared a
19 valedictorian if the following criteria are met:
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21 (1) Grade point average of 4.0; and
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23 (2) Earned and met the requirements of one of the Honor
24 Recognition Certificates; and
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26 WHEREAS, the existing policy allows for the recognition of
27 many students achieving the designation of valedictorian,
28 especially students recognized for non-academic, career, or



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1 technical-based achievements, which may lessen the significance
 2 of the title of "valedictorian" and compromise the title's
 3 emphasis on academic excellence; and

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 5 WHEREAS, limiting valedictorian designation to students
 6 achieving academic honors in core classes would reinforce the
 7 importance of academic achievements, provide an incentive for
 8 students to succeed, and reward those who do; and

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 10 WHEREAS, an approach focusing on academic accomplishments
 11 aligns with the core purpose of the educational system and sends
 12 a clear message about the Department of Education's commitment
 13 to academic excellence; now, therefore,

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 15 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
 16 Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
 17 Session of 2024, the Senate concurring, that the Board of
 18 Education is requested to amend its policy on valedictorian
 19 designation to exclusively recognize students with exceptional
 20 academic achievements, as demonstrated by their academic honors,
 21 grade point average, and performance in rigorous academic
 22 courses; and

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 24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board is requested to
 25 review, discuss, and revise the policy on valedictorian
 26 designation to ensure that future valedictorians are selected
 27 based on their exceptional academic accomplishments in their
 28 core classes and have the incentive to succeed in school and
 29 future academic endeavors; and

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

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OFFERED BY: _____

MAR - 8 2024

