HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO CONDUCT A STUDY ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF LATER SCHOOL START TIMES.

WHEREAS, the American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that the first school bell ring no earlier than 8:30 a.m. nationwide; and

WHEREAS, early school start times are associated with students sleeping less, irritability and fatigue, and difficulty paying attention in class, leading to poor academic performance; and

WHEREAS, all but five public high schools in the State begin their school days before 8:30 a.m.; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2024, the Senate concurring, that the Department of Education is requested to conduct a study on the implementation of later school start times, to commence no earlier than 8:30 a.m. and the impact on student health and wellness; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is requested to include in the study public elementary, middle, and high schools; provided that each school maintain the minimum instructional time requirements under section 302A-251, Hawaii Revised Statutes; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is also requested to consider state provided school bus and school meal schedules for public schools to align with the later school start times; and

 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is requested to consult with the Hawaii State Teachers Association on any requests the Association may have regarding school start times in future bargaining contracts, and include any requests in the study; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is requested to consult with other state agencies concerning its study; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is requested to submit a report on its study, including any findings, recommendations, and proposed legislation, to the Legislature, no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2025; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of Education, Superintendent of Education, Director of Health, Director of Human Services, Director of Transportation, and President of the Hawaii State Teachers Association.