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## HOUSE 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  
29 technical-based achievements, which may lessen the significance

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1 of the title of "valedictorian" and compromise the title's  
2 emphasis on academic excellence; and

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

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

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

21  
22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board is requested to  
23 review, discuss, and revise the policy on valedictorian  
24 designation to ensure that future valedictorians are selected  
25 based on their exceptional academic accomplishments in their  
26 core classes and have the incentive to succeed in school and  
27 future academic endeavors; and

28  
29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
30 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of  
31 Education and Superintendent of Education.

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33  
34 OFFERED BY:



MAR - 8 2024

