
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE AUDITOR TO RESEARCH IMPLEMENTING A LAW TO REQUIRE
LEGISLATOR SALARIES TO BE TIED TO MEDIAN TEACHER SALARIES.

1 WHEREAS, educators represent the foundation upon which our
2 democratic society is built, fostering the development of
3 informed, engaged, and civic-minded citizens; and
4

5 WHEREAS, the value placed on education in policy is not
6 consistently reflected in the compensation provided to those who
7 deliver it; and
8

9 WHEREAS, legislators, as representatives of the people's
10 interests, should maintain a tangible connection to the economic
11 realities faced by vital public servants; and
12

13 WHEREAS, a Commission on Salaries is established, pursuant
14 to article XVI, section 3.5, of the Constitution of the State of
15 Hawaii, to review and recommend salaries for a variety of state
16 positions, including members of the Legislature; and
17

18 WHEREAS, establishing a direct relationship between
19 legislator compensation and teacher salaries creates a shared
20 economic interest that may foster more informed policy decisions
21 regarding education funding and reform; and
22

23 WHEREAS, this alignment serves as a symbolic and practical
24 affirmation of the essential role that education plays in our
25 democratic institutions and collective prosperity; and
26

27 WHEREAS, the work of teachers and legislators are similar,
28 with teachers:
29

- 30 (1) Having a similar schedule to what a full-time
31 legislative calendar would be, with a two-month break
32 in the summer and two-week break in the winter;
33



H.R. NO. 83

1 (2) Being in constant contact with parents, students, and
2 administrators, similar to how legislators are in
3 constant contact with constituents, community
4 organizations, and agencies; and
5

6 (3) Oftentimes being a part of the community and having to
7 be approached by students families, sharing similar
8 sacrifices of privacy that legislators experience, who
9 are public figures that have to interact with the
10 public; and
11

12 WHEREAS, although teachers have to meet minimum standards
13 and obtain certifications through a process that is based on
14 content knowledge and pedagogy to be a licensed teacher, no
15 parallel process is established for legislators; and
16

17 WHEREAS, consideration should be given to tie the base
18 salaries of legislators to the median salary of licensed
19 teachers, thereby establishing a compensation structure that
20 honors the parallel importance of these public service roles and
21 creates a shared stake in the economic valuation of education in
22 our society; now, therefore,
23

24 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
25 Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
26 of 2025, that the Auditor is requested to research the
27 requirements, parameters, and necessary details for implementing
28 a law to require legislator salaries to be tied to median
29 teacher salaries; and
30

31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in conducting its research, the
32 Auditor is requested to examine jurisdictions that have
33 established laws or regulations tying the salaries of
34 legislators to other government positions; and
35

36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Auditor is requested to
37 submit a report of its findings and recommendations, including
38 any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than
39 twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of
40 2026; and
41



H.R. NO. 83

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
2 Resolution be transmitted to the Auditor and Chairperson of the
3 Commission on Salaries.
4
5
6

OFFERED BY: *Tim Cooney*

MAR 06 2025

