
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
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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
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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
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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
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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
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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
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27 WHEREAS, the work of teachers and legislators are similar,
28 with teachers:
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- 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;
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(2) Being in constant contact with parents, students, and administrators, similar to how legislators are in constant contact with constituents, community organizations, and agencies; and

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

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

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

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

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

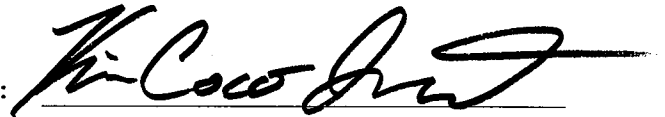
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Auditor is requested to submit a report of its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2026; and



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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.
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OFFERED BY:



MAR 06 2025

