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# HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO RECOGNIZE ROBOTICS AS AN  
INTERSCHOLASTIC SPORT AND DEDICATE FUNDING TO SUPPORT  
ROBOTICS PROGRAMS ACROSS THE STATE.

1           WHEREAS, in 1999 the first robotics program was established  
2 at Waialua High School, and since then, the State has embraced  
3 robotics technology as both an educational and competitive  
4 platform; and

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6           WHEREAS, in the past the legislature supported robotics  
7 programs through measures such as Act 111, SLH 2007, and other  
8 measures investing in Hawaii's emerging science and technology  
9 fields; and

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11           WHEREAS, the legislature appropriated funding for  
12 scholarships for the State's first "For Inspiration and  
13 Recognition of Science and Technology" (FIRST) regional  
14 competition; and

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16           WHEREAS, through FIRST and VEX Robotics, two major robotics  
17 programs for students in grades pre-kindergarten through twelve,  
18 Hawaii's robotics teams engage more than two thousand five  
19 hundred students from numerous schools across the State; and

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21           WHEREAS, these robotics teams achieve national and  
22 international success and contribute to the community by leading  
23 local science, technology, engineering, and mathematics  
24 education initiatives; and

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26           WHEREAS, unfortunately, since 2009, the State has lost  
27 numerous robotics teams due to insufficient resources and a lack  
28 of mentors; and

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1 WHEREAS, unlike most extracurricular activities, robotics  
2 is conducted year-round, with each team having several mentors  
3 and the cost of hosting a competition exceeding hundreds or even  
4 thousands of dollars; and

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6 WHEREAS, recent federal funding cuts have also impacted  
7 several Hawaii robotics teams, forcing their reliance on  
8 competitive grants, which are not guaranteed; and

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10 WHEREAS, a lack of consistent funding has threatened  
11 robotics programs at Maui High School, James Campbell High  
12 School, and several others; and

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14 WHEREAS, this has minimized the access to education that  
15 robotics provides in areas such as hands-on science, technology,  
16 engineering, and mathematics that increases critical thinking  
17 and creative problem-solving skills among students; and

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19 WHEREAS, it is crucial that the State joins states such as  
20 Texas, Connecticut, Arizona, and Minnesota which already  
21 recognize robotics as a sanctioned sport; now, therefore,

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23 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
24 Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
25 of 2026, the Senate concurring, the Department of Education is  
26 urged to recognize robotics as an interscholastic sport and  
27 dedicate funding to support robotics programs across the state;  
28 and

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30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Department of Education shall  
31 take the necessary administrative steps needed to deem robotics  
32 an interscholastic sport; and

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34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Department of Education shall  
35 conduct an assessment to determine the appropriate amount of  
36 fiscal support needed to maintain robotic programs across the  
37 state; and

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39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
40 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the  
41 Board of Education, Superintendent of Education, and Director of  
42 Hawaii High School Athletic Association.



# H.C.R. NO. 143

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OFFERED BY:

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MAR 16 2026

