
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO MEET THE CRITERIA
NECESSARY TO OFFICIALLY RECOGNIZE CHEERLEADING AS A TITLE
IX SPORT IN HAWAII.

1 WHEREAS, Title IX of the federal Education Amendments of
2 1972 requires educational institutions to provide equal athletic
3 opportunities for students regardless of sex, and recognizes
4 that emerging women's sports is a key mechanism for fulfilling
5 this mandate; and

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7 WHEREAS, competitive cheerleading has evolved into a highly
8 athletic, team-based, and strategically complex activity that
9 demands rigorous physical conditioning, technical skill, and
10 year-round training comparable to other varsity sports; and

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12 WHEREAS, participation in competitive cheerleading has
13 grown substantially nationwide, with thousands of high school
14 and collegiate athletes engaging in organized competitions
15 governed by established rules, scoring systems, and safety
16 standards; and

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18 WHEREAS, numerous athletic associations, including the
19 National Collegiate Acrobatics & Tumbling Association and USA
20 Cheer, have developed standardized competition formats,
21 certified coaching pathways, and recognized championship
22 structures that align with the criteria used to evaluate varsity
23 sports; and

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25 WHEREAS, recognizing competitive cheerleading as a Title IX
26 sport would ensure that high school cheer athletes receive
27 equitable access to resources such as certified coaching,
28 athletic training support, facilities, transportation, and
29 safety oversight consistent with other varsity sports; and



H.C.R. NO. 42

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WHEREAS, recognizing high school competitive cheerleading as a Title IX sport in Hawaii would honor the dedication, athleticism, and accomplishments of local cheer athletes while advancing gender equity in school-based athletics statewide; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2026, the Senate concurring, that the Department of Education is urged to meet the criteria to officially recognize competitive cheerleading as a Title IX sport in Hawaii; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is requested to develop guidelines, procedures, and safety standards to meet the criteria and classify competitive cheer as an interscholastic sport that is consistent with the United States Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights' definition of a sport under Title IX of the federal Education Amendments of 1972, as amended; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is requested to work with the Hawaii High School Athletic Association in developing guidelines, procedures, and safety standards for competitive cheerleading; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of Education; Superintendent of Education; and Executive Director of the Hawaii High School Athletic Association.

OFFERED BY:


MAR 12 2026

