
HOUSE 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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30 WHEREAS, unlike most extracurricular activities, robotics
31 is conducted year-round, with each team having several mentors



1 and the cost of hosting a competition exceeding hundreds or even
2 thousands of dollars; and

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

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

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

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

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

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27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Department of Education shall
28 take the necessary administrative steps needed to deem robotics
29 an interscholastic sport; and

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

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



H.R. NO. 135

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OFFERED BY:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'JAG', written over a horizontal line.

MAR 16 2025

