
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO
ESTABLISH A WORKING GROUP TO DEVELOP A CLIMATE LITERACY
SEAL OF EXCELLENCE FRAMEWORK IN HAWAII PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

1 WHEREAS, climate change presents significant environmental,
2 economic, cultural, and public health challenges for the State;
3 and
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5 WHEREAS, preparing students to understand climate science,
6 sustainability, resilience, and the civic and workforce
7 implications of climate change is essential to long-term
8 community well-being; and
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10 WHEREAS, in 2024, Colorado enacted a law to award a seal of
11 climate literacy diploma endorsement to students who complete
12 certain courses and an experimental learning project; and
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14 WHEREAS, Hawaii should similarly establish a Climate
15 Literacy Seal of Excellence to recognize students who complete
16 advanced coursework and experiential learning focused on climate
17 science, sustainability, and community resilience; now,
18 therefore,
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20 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
21 Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
22 of 2026, that the Board of Education and Department of Education
23 are requested to establish a Climate Literacy Seal of Excellence
24 Working Group to develop a framework for implementation in
25 Hawaii public schools; and
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27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested
28 to consist of eleven members, including:
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- 30 (1) The Chairperson of the Board of Education, or the
31 Chairperson's designee;
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- 1 (2) The Superintendent of Education, or the
2 Superintendent's designee;
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- 4 (3) One secondary public school science teacher to be
5 appointed by the Superintendent;
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- 7 (4) One secondary public school social studies or civics
8 teacher to be appointed by the Superintendent;
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- 10 (5) One Department of Education science curriculum
11 specialist to be appointed by the Superintendent;
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- 13 (6) One Department of Education career and technical
14 education specialist with experience in sustainability
15 or green workforce pathways to be appointed by the
16 Superintendent;
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- 18 (7) One faculty member from the University of Hawaii
19 System with expertise in climate science or climate
20 resilience to be appointed by the President of the
21 University of Hawaii;
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- 23 (8) One representative from a Hawaii-based environment or
24 climate research organization;
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- 26 (9) One representative from a workforce development or
27 sustainability-focused industry sector; and
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- 29 (10) Two public high school students, representing
30 different islands or complex areas, to be appointed by
31 the Superintendent in consultation with school
32 leadership; and
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34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested
35 to develop recommendations that include:

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- 37 (1) A proposed course sequence or academic pathway aligned
38 with climate science and sustainability standards;
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- 40 (2) Experiential or project-based learning requirements
41 tied to community resilience, stewardship, or
42 community-based problem solving;



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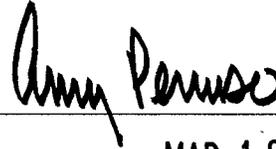
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- (3) Criteria for earning the Climate Literacy Seal of Excellence;
- (4) Professional development needs and credentialing considerations for educators;
- (5) Alignment with graduation requirements, career and technical education pathways, and civic education initiatives; and
- (6) A phased implementation timeline and resource considerations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is requested to submit a report of the working group's findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation or budgetary requirements to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2027; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of Education, Superintendent of Education, and President of the University of Hawaii.

OFFERED BY:



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