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# HOUSE RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO SUPPORT EXPANDED COMMUNITY  
ACCESS TO OUTDOOR PUBLIC SCHOOL FACILITIES AND GROUNDS  
DURING NON-SCHOOL HOURS.

1           WHEREAS, public schools are vital community institutions  
2 that serve students, their families, and local communities; and  
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4           WHEREAS, many public school campuses across Hawaii include  
5 outdoor facilities, such as playgrounds, athletic fields,  
6 basketball courts, tracks, and open green spaces, that can  
7 provide safe and accessible places for physical activity and  
8 community connection; and  
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10          WHEREAS, access to outdoor recreational spaces is essential  
11 to supporting the health and well-being of Hawaii's keiki and  
12 their families; and  
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14          WHEREAS, many communities across the State experience  
15 limited access to parks, recreational facilities, and safe  
16 places for youth to play, particularly in dense urban areas and  
17 neighborhoods where public open space is scarce; and  
18

19          WHEREAS, public health organizations, youth advocates, and  
20 community groups across Hawaii have identified expanded access  
21 to safe outdoor recreational spaces as an important strategy for  
22 improving youth health and supporting more active communities;  
23 and  
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25          WHEREAS, expanding community access to existing public  
26 school outdoor facilities during non-school hours, including  
27 weekends, represents an opportunity to maximize the use of  
28 public infrastructure to promote healthier and more active  
29 communities; and  
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31          WHEREAS, shared use of school recreational spaces has been  
32 successfully implemented in jurisdictions across the United



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1 States as a strategy to increase physical activity, strengthen  
2 community ties, and support childhood development; and

3  
4 WHEREAS, policies that encourage community use of outdoor  
5 school spaces can help foster stronger relationships between  
6 schools and the communities they serve, while supporting broader  
7 public health goals; now, therefore,

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9 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
10 Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
11 of 2026, that the Department of Education is urged to support  
12 efforts to expand community access to outdoor public school  
13 facilities and grounds during non-school hours, including  
14 opportunities for weekend access, where appropriate and  
15 feasible; and

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17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is  
18 encouraged to explore opportunities to facilitate community use  
19 of outdoor school spaces in a manner that balances respect for  
20 school operations and positive community engagement; and

21  
22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is  
23 encouraged to engage with interested stakeholders about  
24 exploring opportunities that allow public school campuses to  
25 serve as spaces that promote physical activity for youth and  
26 community health; and

27  
28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
29 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of  
30 Education and Superintendent of Education.

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32  
33 OFFERED BY:

  
\_\_\_\_\_ MAR 12 2026

