

MAR 16 2026

SENATE CONCURRENT 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

4
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

9
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

13
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 Senate of the Thirty-third
21 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2026, the
22 House of Representatives concurring, that the Board of Education
23 and Department of Education are requested to establish a Climate
24 Literacy Seal of Excellence Working Group to develop a framework
25 for implementation in Hawaii public schools; and

26
27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested
28 to consist of eleven members, including:
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- 1 (1) The Chairperson of the Board of Education, or the
2 Chairperson's designee;
- 3
- 4 (2) The Superintendent of Education, or the
5 Superintendent's designee;
- 6
- 7 (3) One secondary public school science teacher to be
8 appointed by the Superintendent;
- 9
- 10 (4) One secondary public school social studies or civics
11 teacher to be appointed by the Superintendent;
- 12
- 13 (5) One Department of Education science curriculum
14 specialist to be appointed by the Superintendent;
- 15
- 16 (6) One Department of Education career and technical
17 education specialist with experience in sustainability
18 or green workforce pathways to be appointed by the
19 Superintendent;
- 20
- 21 (7) One faculty member from the University of Hawaii
22 System with expertise in climate science or climate
23 resilience to be appointed by the President of the
24 University of Hawaii;
- 25
- 26 (8) One representative from a Hawaii-based environment or
27 climate research organization;
- 28
- 29 (9) One representative from a workforce development or
30 sustainability-focused industry sector; and
- 31
- 32 (10) Two public high school students, representing
33 different islands or complex areas, to be appointed by
34 the Superintendent in consultation with school
35 leadership; and
- 36

37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested
38 to develop recommendations that include:

- 39
- 40 (1) A proposed course sequence or academic pathway aligned
41 with climate science and sustainability standards;
- 42



- 1 (2) Experiential or project-based learning requirements
- 2 tied to community resilience, stewardship, or
- 3 community-based problem solving;
- 4
- 5 (3) Criteria for earning the Climate Literacy Seal of
- 6 Excellence;
- 7
- 8 (4) Professional development needs and credentialling
- 9 considerations for educators;
- 10
- 11 (5) Alignment with graduation requirements, career and
- 12 technical education pathways, and civic education
- 13 initiatives; and
- 14
- 15 (6) A phased implementation timeline and resource
- 16 considerations; and
- 17

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is

19 requested to submit a report of the working group's findings and

20 recommendations, including any proposed legislation or budgetary

21 requirements to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior

22 to the convening of the Regular Session of 2027; and

23

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this

25 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the

26 Board of Education, Superintendent of Education, and President

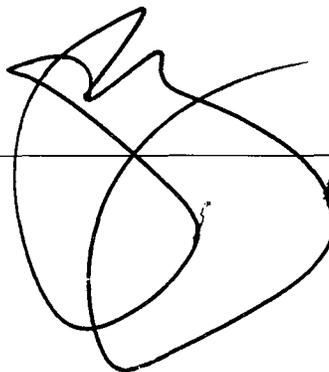
27 of the University of Hawaii.

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OFFERED BY: _____

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, written over a horizontal line. The signature consists of several overlapping loops and curves, characteristic of a cursive or calligraphic style.