

MAR 16 2026

SENATE 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



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2 WHEREAS, recognizing high school competitive cheerleading
3 as a Title IX sport in Hawaii would honor the dedication,
4 athleticism, and accomplishments of local cheer athletes while
5 advancing gender equity in school-based athletics statewide;
6 now, therefore,
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8 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third
9 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2026, the
10 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of
11 Education is urged to meet the criteria to officially recognize
12 competitive cheerleading as a Title IX sport in Hawaii; and
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14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is
15 requested to develop guidelines, procedures, and safety
16 standards to meet the criteria and classify competitive cheer as
17 an interscholastic sport that is consistent with the United
18 States Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights'
19 definition of a sport under Title IX of the federal Education
20 Amendments of 1972, as amended; and
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22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is
23 requested to work with the Hawaii High School Athletic
24 Association in developing guidelines, procedures, and safety
25 standards for competitive cheerleading; and
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27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
28 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of
29 Education; Superintendent of Education; and Executive Director
30 of the Hawaii High School Athletic Association.
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OFFERED BY: *Anne Mercado Ki*

