
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, IN COLLABORATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, TO REVISE PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS TO INCLUDE SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF A STANDALONE FINANCIAL LITERACY COURSE.

1 WHEREAS, in 2025, the Hawaii State Senate adopted Senate
2 Resolution No. 44, requesting the Department of Education
3 (Department) to develop and implement a statewide financial
4 literacy curricula plan for public high school students; and
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6 WHEREAS, the Department responded to the senate resolution
7 by announcing that, beginning with the incoming freshmen in the
8 Class of 2030, all students in state public schools must
9 successfully complete a financial literacy educational
10 opportunity before graduation and document completion through
11 their Personal Transition Plan (PTP); and
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13 WHEREAS, to enable students to meet this requirement, the
14 Department is allowing public schools to take a variety of
15 instructional approaches, including self-paced learning options,
16 integration into existing courses, and other instructional
17 designs that align with the Department's financial literacy
18 program standards; and
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20 WHEREAS, the Board of Education, however, did not hold a
21 formal vote to approve the new requirement or consider
22 alternative options for students to gain a high-quality
23 financial literacy education; and
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25 WHEREAS, a 2024 Financial Literacy Task Force (Task Force)
26 report prepared and submitted by the Department to the Board of
27 Education considered various methods to incorporate financial
28 literacy education into the public school curriculum, including
29 but not limited to making financial literacy a standalone



1 graduation requirement and incorporating financial literacy into
2 the required PTP; and

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4 WHEREAS, Task Force members expressed concerns that
5 incorporating financial literacy into the PTP may be too late
6 for impactful education and largely believed that a standalone
7 course with dedicated instruction, support, feedback, and
8 accountability is the preferable pathway to ensure all students
9 possess the financial skills required for post-secondary
10 success; and

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12 WHEREAS, as of November 2025, thirty states guarantee a
13 standalone personal finance course for all public high school
14 students, including California, which in 2024 enacted a law
15 mandating that a semester-long personal finance course be
16 offered to all high school students in the state by the 2027-
17 2028 school year; and

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19 WHEREAS, this widespread implementation has been spurred by
20 studies finding that financial literacy education effectively
21 improves financial behaviors related to budgeting, saving,
22 credit, and insurance; and

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24 WHEREAS, respondents in a fall 2025 HawaiiKidsCAN community
25 survey expressed overwhelming agreement that financial literacy
26 is a vital life skill, regardless of a student's postsecondary
27 plans, making it critical for all students to receive financial
28 literacy education; and

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30 WHEREAS, HawaiiKidsCAN further found that ninety percent of
31 industry, financial services, and community members advocate for
32 a half- or full-credit financial literacy course in the State's
33 public education curriculum; and

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35 WHEREAS, a rigorous, stand-alone financial literacy
36 graduation requirement would best serve the State's students by
37 prioritizing applied, real-world financial skills and preventing
38 financial literacy instructions from being lost when combined
39 with other topics; and

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41 WHEREAS, an annual nationwide Personal Finance Index study
42 conducted in 2025 found that financial literacy has declined



1 across generations, with Generation Z exhibiting the lowest
2 levels of financial literacy of any generation studied,
3 averaging only thirty-eight percent correct answers on the Index
4 compared to an average score of fifty-five percent among baby
5 boomers; and

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7 WHEREAS, individuals with a very low level of financial
8 literacy are three times as likely to be debt constrained and
9 more than four times as likely to lack emergency savings
10 sufficient to cover one month of living expenses compared to
11 those with a very high level of financial literacy; and

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13 WHEREAS, these findings exhibit the negative long-term
14 individual and societal impacts of low financial literacy and
15 underscore the importance of establishing a generationally
16 tailored financial literacy education for young residents; now,
17 therefore,

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19 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third
20 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2026, the
21 House of Representatives concurring, that the Board of
22 Education, in collaboration with the Department of Education, is
23 requested to revise public high school graduation requirements
24 to include successful completion of a standalone financial
25 literacy course, to be implemented beginning with the 2026-2027
26 school year; and

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28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education's plan
29 to include successful completion of a standalone financial
30 literacy course as a public high school graduation requirement
31 is requested to include:

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33 (1) Pathways for teachers to obtain professional
34 development credits by completing financial literacy
35 training;
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37 (2) Identification of funding sources to support the
38 implementation of a standalone financial literacy
39 course;
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41 (3) Tracking of student course completion as a measure of
42 success; and



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2 (4) A curriculum plan that reflects community input on
3 financial literacy topics and integrates real-world
4 and applied learning opportunities; and
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6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education, in
7 collaboration with the Department of Education, is requested to
8 collect and analyze data on the implementation of the standalone
9 financial literacy course, including but not limited to student
10 enrollment and completion rates, course availability across
11 schools, teacher capacity and training, and any identified
12 barriers to implementation; and
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14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education is
15 requested to submit a progress report on the implementation of
16 the standalone financial literacy course to the Legislature no
17 later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular
18 Session of 2027, and a final report of its findings and
19 recommendations, including any proposed legislative actions or
20 resource needs, no later than twenty days prior to the convening
21 of the Regular Session of 2028; and
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23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
24 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the
25 Board of Education and Superintendent of Education.

