

MAR 16 2026

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## SENATE 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 Senate of the Thirty-third  
21 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2026,  
22 that the Board of Education and Department of Education are  
23 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
- 33

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;



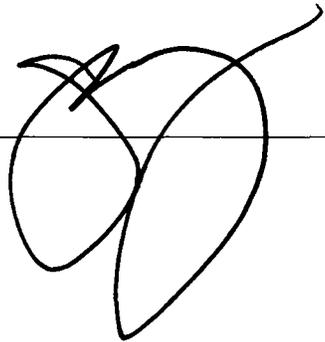
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- (3) Criteria for earning the Climate Literacy Seal of Excellence;
- (4) Professional development needs and credentialing considerations for educators;
- (5) Alignment with graduation requirements, career and technical education pathways, and civic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


 A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a long tail, is written over a horizontal line.
