

MAR 16 2026

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# SENATE 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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31           WHEREAS, recognizing high school competitive cheerleading  
32 as a Title IX sport in Hawaii would honor the dedication,



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1 athleticism, and accomplishments of local cheer athletes while  
2 advancing gender equity in school-based athletics statewide;  
3 now, therefore,  
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5 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third  
6 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2026,  
7 that the Department of Education is urged to meet the criteria  
8 to officially recognize competitive cheerleading as a Title IX  
9 sport in Hawaii; and  
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11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is  
12 requested to develop guidelines, procedures, and safety  
13 standards to meet the criteria and classify competitive cheer as  
14 an interscholastic sport that is consistent with the United  
15 States Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights'  
16 definition of a sport under Title IX of the federal Education  
17 Amendments of 1972, as amended; and  
18

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is  
20 requested to work with the Hawaii High School Athletic  
21 Association in developing guidelines, procedures, and safety  
22 standards for competitive cheerleading; and  
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24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
25 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of Education;  
26 Superintendent of Education; and Executive Director of the  
27 Hawaii High School Athletic Association.  
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OFFERED BY:



