
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 are a key mechanism for fulfilling
5 this mandate; and

6
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

11
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

17
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

24
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

30
31 WHEREAS, recognizing high school competitive cheerleading
32 as a Title IX sport in Hawaii would honor the dedication,
33 athleticism, and accomplishments of local cheer athletes while



1 advancing gender equity in school-based athletics statewide;
2 now, therefore,
3

4 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third
5 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2026,
6 that the Department of Education is urged to meet the criteria
7 to officially recognize competitive cheerleading as a Title IX
8 sport in Hawaii; and
9

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is
11 requested to develop guidelines, procedures, and safety
12 standards to meet the criteria and classify competitive cheer as
13 an interscholastic sport that is consistent with the United
14 States Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights'
15 definition of a sport under Title IX of the federal Education
16 Amendments of 1972, as amended; and
17

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is
19 requested to work with the Hawaii High School Athletic
20 Association in developing guidelines, procedures, and safety
21 standards for competitive cheerleading; and
22

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
24 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of
25 Education, Superintendent of Education, and Executive Director
26 of the Hawaii High School Athletic Association.

