

MAR 16 2026

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# SENATE RESOLUTION

ENCOURAGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO OFFER A BASIC SWIMMING COURSE IN EITHER PRIMARY OR SECONDARY EDUCATION LEVELS.

1 WHEREAS, the State currently has the second highest rate of  
2 deaths by drowning for residents in the country and drowning is  
3 the leading cause of death for children in the State; and  
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5 WHEREAS, the State's high cost of living leaves many  
6 parents without the time or financial resources to ensure that  
7 their children acquire water safety and swimming skills; and  
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9 WHEREAS, the absence of equitable swim education in the  
10 State has increased the rate of drownings and has left many  
11 keiki without the skills necessary to safely enjoy the water;  
12 and  
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14 WHEREAS, according to the Centers for Disease Control and  
15 Prevention and the United States National Water Safety Action  
16 Plan, increasing access to basic swimming and water safety  
17 skills training for all persons could reduce disparities in  
18 unintentional drowning deaths; now, 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 Department of Education is encouraged to offer a basic  
23 swimming course in either primary or secondary education levels;  
24 and  
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26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
27 Resolution be transmitted to the Superintendent of Education and  
28 Chairperson of the Board of Education.  
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OFFERED BY: 

