

MAR 8 - 2019

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO CONDUCT A STUDY TO
ASSESS THE ADEQUACY OF THE DEPARTMENT'S VOCATIONAL
EDUCATION PROGRAMS TO PREPARE STUDENTS FOR A CAREER IN A
VOCATION.

1 WHEREAS, a four-year college degree may not be suitable for
2 all students; and

3
4 WHEREAS, the daunting financial commitment necessary to
5 obtain a four-year college degree may leave some students
6 heavily indebted after college; and

7
8 WHEREAS, many vocational career fields provide suitable
9 incomes for the State's middle-class; and

10
11 WHEREAS, many students would benefit from the Department of
12 Education offering courses and training in vocational career
13 fields; and

14
15 WHEREAS, the Hawaii P-20 College and Career Readiness
16 Indicators Report of 2017 found that of the State's high school
17 students, seventeen percent did not graduate and only fifty-five
18 percent enrolled in post-secondary education, of which only
19 thirty-two percent enrolled in a four-year university; and

20
21 WHEREAS, according to the June 13, 2018, edition of Forbes
22 magazine, more than forty-four million borrowers currently owe a
23 total of \$1,500,000,000 in student loans, with the average
24 college graduate owing \$37,172 in student loans in 2016; and

25
26 WHEREAS, according to the National Center for Education
27 Statistics, three out of ten high school graduates nationwide
28 who attended four-year public universities failed to earn their
29 degrees within six years; and



1 WHEREAS, according to the Georgetown University Center on
2 Education and the Workforce, there are nearly thirty million
3 jobs in the United States that pay an average of \$55,000 per
4 year and do not require a bachelor's degree; and
5

6 WHEREAS, according to the United States Department of
7 Labor, there were 6,600,000 job openings in early 2018 in
8 vocational career fields; and
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10 WHEREAS, due to lack of training in particular skills, the
11 demand for skilled workers in various industries throughout the
12 nation will exceed the number of available workers; and
13

14 WHEREAS, the United States Department of Education,
15 Department of Transportation, and Department of Labor
16 collaboratively examined specific transportation subsectors,
17 including trucking; transportation; highway construction and
18 maintenance; transit and ground passenger transportation; rail
19 transportation; air transportation; and maritime, and projected
20 that annual job openings in these subsectors will be sixty-eight
21 percent larger than the number of individuals completing related
22 education programs; and
23

24 WHEREAS, the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics
25 projects that in four years, careers in construction, health
26 care, and personal care will account for one-third of all new
27 jobs in the nation; now, therefore,
28

29 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirtieth Legislature
30 of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2019, the House of
31 Representatives concurring, that the Department of Education is
32 requested to conduct a study to assess the adequacy of the
33 Department's vocational education programs to prepare students
34 for a career in a vocational career field; and
35

36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is
37 requested to include the following as part of its study:



- 1 (1) Identification of the vocational career fields in the
2 State that:
3
4 (A) Have a current or projected demand for skilled
5 workers;
6
7 (B) Do not require a four-year college degree; and
8
9 (C) Provide wages that will enable the interested
10 students to achieve middle-class status in the
11 State or anywhere in the nation;
12
13 (2) An assessment of the accessibility and availability of
14 the Department's current course offerings in the
15 vocational career fields identified in paragraph (1);
16
17 (3) A plan of action that the Department intends to
18 undertake to address or cure any deficiencies
19 identified in paragraph (2);
20
21 (4) Recommendations and strategies that the Department
22 will implement to:
23
24 (A) Attract and retain qualified teachers; and
25
26 (B) Eliminate anything currently hindering the hiring
27 of qualified vocational teachers in vocational
28 subject areas; and
29
30 (5) An estimate of any funds or a proposal of any funding
31 sources, or both, necessary to implement any plans,
32 recommendations, or strategies identified pursuant to
33 paragraphs (3) and (4); and
34

35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is
36 requested to submit a report of its findings and
37 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the
38 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
39 the Regular Session of 2020; and



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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 2 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, the
 3 Chairperson of the Board of Education, and the Superintendent of
 4 Education.

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OFFERED BY:

Kurt Ferrell

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