

MAR 08 2019

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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO CONVENE A WORKING  
GROUP TO IDENTIFY THE MOST RELEVANT FACTORS THAT HINDER  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN THEIR DEVELOPMENT OF ROBOTICS PROGRAMS.

1           WHEREAS, robots and robotic technologies represent a  
2 practical application of physics, computer science, engineering,  
3 and mathematics and provide a very powerful and flexible  
4 approach to demonstrate a variety of engineering concepts; and  
5

6           WHEREAS, robotics appeals to a broad range of interests and  
7 allows multiple points of access to science, technology,  
8 engineering, and mathematics for many types of learners; and  
9

10           WHEREAS, robotics technology and robots are being used by  
11 an increasing number of educators at the college level to  
12 reinforce computer science and engineering theory and to teach  
13 basic software and mechanical engineering at the elementary,  
14 middle, and high school levels; and  
15

16           WHEREAS, robots and robotic technology catalyze an interest  
17 in science and increase self-esteem, as well as teach basic life  
18 skills such as problem solving, decision making, goal setting  
19 and logical thinking; and  
20

21           WHEREAS, Hawaii can serve as a model of coordination of a  
22 full range of robotics education opportunities from elementary  
23 through college and provide templates for initiating such  
24 efforts elsewhere; and  
25

26           WHEREAS, many Hawaii schools have robotics teams, but there  
27 are still many constraints on funding, resources, and  
28 instructors that prevent some schools from building robotics  
29 programs and recruiting students; and  
30

31           WHEREAS, in order to improve science education in the State  
32 and increase opportunities for students to participate in



1 robotics, it is necessary to identify the most relevant factors  
2 that hinder public schools from developing successful and  
3 thriving robotics programs; now, therefore,

4  
5 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirtieth Legislature  
6 of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2019, the House of  
7 Representatives concurring, that the Department of Education is  
8 requested to convene a working group to identify the most  
9 relevant factors that hinder public schools in their development  
10 of robotics programs; and

11  
12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested  
13 to evaluate the following:

- 14  
15 (1) The current state of robotics in Hawaii from  
16 kindergarten to post-secondary education;  
17  
18 (2) The feasibility of offering robotics within school  
19 curricula;  
20  
21 (3) The feasibility of creating science, technology,  
22 engineering, and math (STEM) grant-writer positions in  
23 public schools; and  
24  
25 (4) Other relevant issues as determined by the working  
26 group; and  
27

28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested  
29 to include the following members:

- 30  
31 (1) A STEM specialist from the Department of Education;  
32  
33 (2) Assistant Dean of the College of Engineering at the  
34 University of Hawaii at Manoa;  
35  
36 (3) A representative from Project Lead the Way;  
37  
38 (4) The Statewide Coordinator for VEX Robotics, or the  
39 Coordinator's designee;  
40  
41 (5) The Statewide Coordinator for First Robotics, or the  
42 Coordinator's designee;



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- 1
- 2 (6) The Statewide Coordinator for MATE ROV, or the
- 3 Coordinator's designee; and
- 4
- 5 (7) A School Robotics Coordinator from the islands of
- 6 Kauai, Lanai, Maui, Molokai, Oahu, and Hawaii Island;
- 7 and
- 8

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested  
 10 to submit a report of its findings and recommendations,  
 11 including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later  
 12 than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session  
 13 of 2020; and

14  
 15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
 16 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the  
 17 Board of Education, Superintendent of Education, Assistant Dean  
 18 of the College of Engineering at the University of Hawaii at  
 19 Manoa, President and Chief Executive Officer of Project Lead the  
 20 Way, Statewide Coordinator for VEX Robotics, Statewide  
 21 Coordinator for First Robotics, and Statewide Coordinator for  
 22 MATE ROV.

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