

MAR 08 2024

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEVELOPMENT OF A BACCALAUREATE DEGREE PROGRAM IN
EDUCATION WITH AN ONLINE OPTION AT LEEWARD COMMUNITY
COLLEGE TO ADDRESS THE EDUCATIONAL NEEDS OF WORKING ADULTS
IN ALL COUNTIES.

1 WHEREAS, the State of Hawaii recognizes the importance of
2 providing accessible pathways to education and addressing the
3 need for qualified teachers in our communities; and
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5 WHEREAS, there is a growing demand for online educational
6 programs to accommodate working adults who aspire to become
7 teachers; and
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9 WHEREAS, all State of Hawaii counties face unique
10 challenges in recruiting and retaining qualified educators to
11 meet the educational needs of their schools and communities; and
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13 WHEREAS, there is a need for more baccalaureate degree
14 programs at the University of Hawaii Community Colleges to
15 expand access to educational opportunities to all Hawaii
16 counties; and
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18 WHEREAS, there is an urgent need for teaching programs in
19 rural areas to address current teacher shortages; and
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21 WHEREAS, the University of Hawaii Leeward Community
22 College's accreditation allows the college to offer up to two
23 applied baccalaureate degree programs; and
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25 WHEREAS, the University of Hawaii Leeward Community
26 College's existing Teacher Education programs are already
27 offered statewide through the internet and include upper
28 division curriculum; and
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30 WHEREAS, the Hawaii State Teachers Association and the
31 Association for Advancing Quality in Educator Preparation both



1 recognize the teacher education programs at Leeward Community
2 College for teacher education and licensing; and

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4 WHEREAS, new programs at Leeward Community College can
5 become extensions for interested students enrolled in other
6 University of Hawaii community colleges who are interested in
7 the teacher pathway; and

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9 WHEREAS, the development of a baccalaureate degree program
10 in education with an online option at Leeward Community College
11 would be tailored for individuals who are employed outside of
12 the education system and seeking to enter the teaching
13 profession, currently teaching as emergency hires, and
14 substitute teaching at Department of Education public school
15 classroom; and

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17 WHEREAS, the Legislature passed Act 141, Session Laws of
18 Hawaii 2022, which required the University of Hawaii to
19 establish Kindergarten through grade 12 expanded teaching cohort
20 programs in each county for students who are pursuing
21 undergraduate degrees in education; now, therefore,

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23 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second
24 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2024, the
25 House of Representatives concurring, that:

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27 (1) The University of Hawaii Community Colleges are urged
28 to establish a baccalaureate degree program in
29 education with an online option at Leeward Community
30 College;
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32 (2) Funds be re-allocated from within the University of
33 Hawaii community colleges for resources to:
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35 (A) Facilitate the implementation of the Bachelor of
36 Education degree teacher education program with
37 an online option; and
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39 (B) Support initiatives addressing the educational
40 needs in all counties through existing University
41 of Hawaii community colleges; and
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- 1 (3) Relevant stakeholders, including the Department of
2 Education, Board of Education, community leaders, and
3 educational institutions, are urged to:
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5 (A) Support and promote the collaborative efforts
6 outlined in this resolution;
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8 (B) Further promote access to quality education;
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10 (C) Address teacher shortage issues caused by lack of
11 recruitment and retention; and
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13 (D) Support the professional development of current
14 and future educators throughout the State; and
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16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
17 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the University of Hawaii
18 Board of Regents, President of the University of Hawaii System,
19 University Vice President for Community Colleges, and University
20 of Hawaii Leeward Community College Chancellor.
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OFFERED BY: *Anna Mercado Ki*

