
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING PUBLIC AND PRIVATE AGENCIES TO ENCOURAGE THEIR PARENT
CLIENTS TO TURN ON CLOSED CAPTIONING WHEN THEIR CHILDREN
WATCH TELEVISION.

1 WHEREAS, according to the Henry J. Kaiser Family
2 Foundation, two-thirds of infants, toddlers, and children under
3 the age of six watch an average of two hours of television while
4 children and teens from seven to eighteen years old spend nearly
5 four hours a day in front of a television screen; and

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7 WHEREAS, television has replaced the time children spend
8 reading books, causing agencies such as the National Education
9 Association to take action; and

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11 WHEREAS, in 1998 the National Education Association started
12 the "Read Across America" program in an effort to motivate
13 children to read instead of watching television or playing video
14 games; and

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16 WHEREAS, while television opens up new worlds of
17 entertainment and information to children with pictures and
18 sound capturing their attention, the absence of a reading
19 component restricts this medium as a learning tool; and

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21 WHEREAS, while originally developed for the deaf and hard
22 of hearing, closed captioning also has the capability of helping
23 anyone learn by bringing reading to television; and

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25 WHEREAS, in 1985, researchers Koskinen, Wilson, and Jensema
26 noted:

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28 "Captions are reading material. They can turn television
29 into a moving story book, a steady stream of written
30 language presented with both video and audio reinforcement.
31 Viewers can see words on the screen, hear them spoken, and
32 see them put into a visual context. One of the most

1 exciting potential applications of closed captioning is its
2 use as an educational tool"; and

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4 WHEREAS, research has shown that closed captioning has the
5 ability to enhance vocabulary, reading speed, word association,
6 and spelling; and

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8 WHEREAS, closed captioning is a free service provided by
9 the television industry, and most televisions purchased after
10 1993 already have the capability to display closed captioning;
11 now, therefore,

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13 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
14 Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
15 of 2009, the Senate concurring, that the Legislature urges all
16 public and private agencies to encourage their parent clients to
17 turn on closed captioning while their children watch television;
18 and

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20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
21 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor,
22 Superintendent of Education, Director of Health, Director of
23 Human Services, Chairperson of the Board of Directors of Child &
24 Family Service, Chairperson of the Board of Advisors of Catholic
25 Charities Hawaii, Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the
26 Partners in Development Foundation, Chairperson of the Board of
27 Directors of Parents and Children Together, President of the
28 Board of Directors of Hawaii Literacy, and the Executive
29 Director of the American Association of Retired Persons.