

FEB 02 2009

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO ENCOURAGE THE PUBLIC
ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS TO ESTABLISH RESOURCE CENTERS ON THEIR
CAMPUSES IN ORDER TO COMBAT HOMELESSNESS.

1 WHEREAS, thousands of Hawaii residents are homeless or at
2 risk of becoming homeless; and

3
4 WHEREAS, the slowing economy in Hawaii will subject
5 increasing numbers of people to financial stress and potential
6 homelessness; and

7
8 WHEREAS, a key element of the struggle against homelessness
9 is to ensure that families receive adequate, centralized
10 information and referral with regard to existing health, human
11 service, educational, and legal resources that can help them to
12 avoid homelessness, to cope with homelessness when it occurs,
13 and to take steps out of homelessness; and

14
15 WHEREAS, families that are homeless or at risk of becoming
16 homeless often lack ready and early access to adequate,
17 centralized information and referral; and

18
19 WHEREAS, the public elementary schools are among the most
20 recognizable, accessible, non-threatening, and widely used
21 resources in the community, and the administrators and teachers
22 in those schools have constant contact with and extensive
23 knowledge of the circumstances of families in their community;
24 and

25
26 WHEREAS, the Kamaile Elementary School, the Blanche Pope
27 Elementary School, and the Makaha Elementary School have
28 established resource centers that provide information and
29 referral; and



S.C.R. NO. 11

1 WHEREAS, existing data sets on homelessness are inadequate
 2 to provide a complete, in-depth picture of the extent, nature,
 3 patterns, and circumstances of homelessness in communities
 4 throughout the islands; and

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 6 WHEREAS, elementary school administrators, teachers, and
 7 resource and referral centers often have the information
 8 necessary to provide a more complete picture of homelessness;
 9 now, therefore,

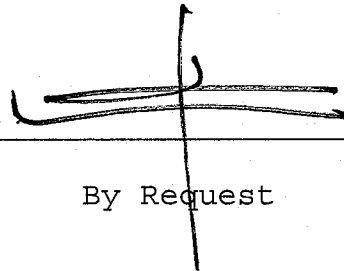
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 11 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fifth
 12 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2009, the
 13 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of
 14 Education is urged to encourage the public elementary schools to
 15 establish on-campus resource centers that provide information
 16 on, and referral to, existing resources that can combat
 17 homelessness; and

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 19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is
 20 urged to foster the development of these resource centers as
 21 sources of information on the extent, nature, patterns, and
 22 circumstances of homelessness in their communities; and

23
 24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 25 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, the
 26 Chairperson of the Board of Education, the Superintendent of
 27 Education, and the Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of the
 28 Office of Hawaiian Affairs.

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OFFERED BY: _____



By Request

