

MAR 18 2009

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE GOVERNOR, SENATE PRESIDENT, AND SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO ESTABLISH A SPECIAL EDUCATION CAUCUS IN RECOGNITION OF THE STATE'S RESPONSIBILITIES TOWARD HAWAII'S SPECIAL EDUCATION STUDENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES.

1 WHEREAS, special education and related services are a
2 critical component of education policy and provide a challenge
3 for educators and policy makers alike in developing thoughtful
4 solutions for Hawaii's public schools; and

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6 WHEREAS, the Legislature finds that as a result of federal
7 civil rights and special education laws, the State of Hawaii has
8 discretion in how it provides education that is accessible to
9 all students in need of special education through traditional
10 public schools, charter schools, private schools, and home
11 schools; and

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13 WHEREAS, in recent years, only a limited number of state
14 legislative measures affecting special education have been
15 enacted in response to the reauthorized Individuals with
16 Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Public Law 108-446, and its
17 implementing federal regulations that govern the State's
18 responsibilities toward exceptional children; now, therefore,

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20 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fifth
21 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2009, the
22 House of Representatives concurring, that the Governor, Senate
23 President, and Speaker of the House of Representatives are urged
24 to establish a Special Education Caucus in recognition of the
25 State's responsibilities toward Hawaii's special education
26 students and their families; and

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28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Special Education Caucus
29 include members of the State Senate and House of
30 Representatives, and a community resource group of special
31 education advocates and providers to assist the Special



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1 Education Caucus in identifying priority areas, including an
2 annual Special Education Caucus Package of measures to address
3 the State's response to the reauthorized Individuals with
4 Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Public Law 108-446, and its
5 implementing federal regulations; and
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7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Special Education Caucus is
8 requested to report its findings and recommendations to the
9 Legislature, including proposed legislation consisting of
10 Hawaii's first Exceptional Children's Education Act of 2010, no
11 later than twenty days prior to the convening of the 2010
12 Regular Session; and
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14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
15 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, President
16 of the Senate, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and
17 Superintendent of Education.
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OFFERED BY:

Norman Satomah

