

MAR 18 2009

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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE LEGISLATURE TO CONVENE A JOINT TASK FORCE TO REVIEW THE STATUS, PROGRESS, AND RESULTS OF ACT 51, SESSION LAWS OF HAWAII 2004, AND TO DEVELOP A FORMAL PROGRAMMATIC EVALUATION AND IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF THE THIRTEEN MAIN ELEMENTS OF ACT 51, INCLUDING RECOMMENDATION FOR IMPROVING, MODIFYING, AND AMENDING ACT 51.

1 WHEREAS, Act 51, Session Laws of Hawaii 2004, also known as  
2 the Reinventing Education Act, was intended to implement a  
3 comprehensive educational reform of Hawaii's public schools; and  
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5 WHEREAS, Act 51 contained the following thirteen main  
6 elements to improve public education:  
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- 8 (1) Establish a weighted student formula;  
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10 (2) Provide additional information technology;  
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12 (3) Empower principals through a Hawaii principals academy  
13 and other means;  
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15 (4) Strengthen community involvement through school  
16 community councils and parent-community networking  
17 centers;  
18  
19 (5) Provide more mathematics textbooks;  
20  
21 (6) Lower class size in kindergarten, grade one, and grade  
22 two;  
23  
24 (7) Provide full-time, year-round, high school student  
25 activity coordinators;  
26  
27 (8) Provide support for students who need additional help  
28 to succeed in school;



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- 2 (9) Establish a national board certification incentive
- 3 program for teachers;
- 4
- 5 (10) Enhance teacher education;
- 6
- 7 (11) Reduce the bureaucracy that hampers the effectiveness
- 8 of the department of education;
- 9
- 10 (12) Improve the educational accountability system; and
- 11
- 12 (13) Require the board of education members to hold
- 13 community meetings in their districts; and
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15 WHEREAS, one objective of Act 51 is for all graduates to  
 16 achieve the General Learner Outcomes and content and performance  
 17 standards in order to realize their individual goals and  
 18 aspirations; and

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 20 WHEREAS, high school students should have opportunities, as  
 21 intended under Act 51, that are not limited by time constraints,  
 22 to study college level coursework and program endorsements to  
 23 prepare them to be successful in a global society; and

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 25 WHEREAS, all high school graduates have the right to be  
 26 fully prepared for post-secondary education or careers and their  
 27 roles as responsible citizens; and

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 29 WHEREAS, in realizing its responsibility to provide fair  
 30 and equal access to educational opportunities in the diverse  
 31 communities throughout the State, the Legislature previously  
 32 provided additional resources to small rural schools to allow  
 33 for a well-rounded and varied offering of coursework and  
 34 electives; and

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 36 WHEREAS, the weighted student formula, established under  
 37 Act 51, is the mechanism that has been adopted to accomplish the  
 38 mission and goals of the Department of Education in the delivery  
 39 of educational services that are fair and equal; and

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 41 WHEREAS, the Committee on Weights, which determined the  
 42 value attached to students, has failed to provide any  
 43 substantial recognition for the special needs and challenges of  
 44 small rural schools in accomplishing the Department of



1 Education's mission of providing a fair and equal educational  
2 program; and

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4 WHEREAS, it appears that the implementation of the weighted  
5 student formula has actually undermined student achievement by  
6 depriving small- and medium-sized schools of resources, forcing  
7 the reduction of teachers and school staff, and eroding  
8 confidence in the public schools, and as a result has created a  
9 vicious cycle that further compounds the problem; and

10  
11 WHEREAS, the Hawaii Principals Academy, established under  
12 Act 51, is intended to empower principals to build strong school  
13 communities and lead their schools in meeting the school's  
14 mission, goals, and objectives; and

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16 WHEREAS, there continues to be a shortage of qualified  
17 principals and schools continue to struggle to improve academic  
18 performance and emerge from restructuring; and

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20 WHEREAS, School Community Councils, another Act 51 element,  
21 were established to enhance community involvement by providing  
22 key stakeholders with a substantially increased voice in school  
23 affairs through clear and concrete powers and responsibilities,  
24 shared with the principal, and enunciated under the law; and

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26 WHEREAS, the Superintendent of Education was charged with  
27 developing internal policies and procedures for the procurement  
28 of goods, services, and construction, consistent with the goals  
29 of public accountability and public procurement practices; and

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31 WHEREAS, a recent report by the State Auditor revealed that  
32 internal controls and policies for procurement practices are  
33 insufficient for preventing conflicts of interest, a fair and  
34 open procurement of contractors, and the establishment of a fair  
35 and accurate cost and price for contracts; and

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37 WHEREAS, improving the educational accountability system  
38 under Act 51 was intended to improve academic achievement,  
39 safety, and civil responsibility; and

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41 WHEREAS, it would be prudent for a joint task force to  
42 undertake a review of the thirteen main elements set forth in  
43 Act 51, Session Laws of Hawaii 2004; now, therefore,  
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1 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fifth  
2 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2009, the  
3 House of Representatives concurring, that the Legislature is  
4 requested to convene a joint task force during the legislative  
5 interim to hold public hearings and receive testimony on the  
6 status, progress, and results of Act 51, Session Laws of Hawaii  
7 2004, and to develop a formal programmatic evaluation and impact  
8 assessment of the thirteen main elements of Act 51, including  
9 recommendations for improving, modifying, and amending Act 51;  
10 and

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12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that it is requested that the Senate  
13 President and Speaker of the House of Representatives appoint  
14 the members of the task force; and

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16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to  
17 submit its findings and recommendations, including any proposed  
18 legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days before  
19 the convening of the Regular Session of 2010; and

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21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
22 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Superintendent of  
23 Education, the Chairperson of the Board of Education, the  
24 President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of  
25 Representatives, and the Chairs of the Committees in the Senate  
26 and the House of Representatives having primary responsibility  
27 for matters relating to lower education.

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OFFERED BY: *dy u i*

