

FEB 10 2009

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE WESTERN ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES TO
AMEND ITS CONSTITUTION TO REFLECT A MORE EQUITABLE
GEOGRAPHIC REPRESENTATION AMONG THE TWENTY-SIX MEMBERS OF
THE ACCREDITING COMMISSION FOR SCHOOLS.

1 WHEREAS, the Western Association of Schools and Colleges
2 (WASC) is one of six regional accrediting associations in the
3 United States; and
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5 WHEREAS, WASC provides assistance to schools located in
6 California, Hawaii, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern
7 Marianas, American Samoa, the Federated States of Micronesia,
8 the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Fiji, and East Asia; and
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10 WHEREAS, the affairs of WASC are administered by a board of
11 directors composed of representatives from the following three
12 commissions:
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14 (1) Accrediting Commission for Senior Colleges and
15 Universities;

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17 (2) Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior
18 Colleges; and
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20 (3) Accrediting Commission for Schools; and
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22 WHEREAS, the Accrediting Commission for Schools is composed
23 of twenty-six members, selected by the Commission's Nomination
24 Review Committee from candidates nominated by member
25 organizations of the Commission; and
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27 WHEREAS, of the twenty-six members, thirteen represent
28 California member organizations, three represent Hawaii member
29 organizations, and the remainder represent other organizations;
30 and
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1 WHEREAS, in addition, the California Department of
2 Education and the Hawaii Department of Education each have an ex
3 officio seat on the Commission; and
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5 WHEREAS, Hawaii's schools have graduated many distinguished
6 alumni, including two presidents: the current and forty-fourth
7 President of the United States, Barack Hussein Obama; and Dr.
8 Sun Yat-sen, the first President of the Republic of China; and
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10 WHEREAS, Hawaii's schools offer educational and career
11 opportunities equal to any in the nation; and
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13 WHEREAS, Hawaii schools, both public and private, are
14 accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges;
15 and
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17 WHEREAS, both the twenty-five member Accrediting Commission
18 for Senior Colleges and Universities and the nineteen-member
19 Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges are
20 less restrictive in the geographic requirements of their
21 membership; now, therefore,
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23 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fifth
24 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2009, the
25 House of Representatives concurring, that the Western
26 Association of Schools and Colleges is requested to amend its
27 Constitution to reflect a more equitable geographic
28 representation among the twenty-six members of the Accrediting
29 Commission for Schools by increasing the representation from
30 Hawaii and decreasing the representation from California so that
31 the two states have equal numbers of members on the Accrediting
32 Commission for Schools; and
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34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of the
35 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Executive Director
36 of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges, the
37 Executive Director of the Hawaii Government Employees
38 Association, the Executive Director of the Hawaii Association of
39 Independent Schools, and the Superintendent of Education.
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OFFERED BY:

