
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

ENCOURAGING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING TO
CONSIDER THE FEASIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING AN UNDERGRADUATE
CERTIFICATE OF ROBOTICS AND EXPLORATION PROGRAM.

1 WHEREAS, the Legislature adopted Concurrent Resolution
2 No. 131, S.D. 1 (2004) to develop, support, promote, expand, and
3 sustain existing robotics education in Hawaii's schools to
4 encourage students to study science and mathematics; and
5

6 WHEREAS, robotics is the practicable application of
7 theories learned from books, calculators, and term papers that
8 enables students to see learned concepts in action; and
9

10 WHEREAS, robotics introduces science and mathematics to
11 children with a wide range of ability levels, including those in
12 underserved and underrepresented communities; and
13

14 WHEREAS, the Robotics Organizing Committee, is a dedicated
15 volunteer organization that develops, coordinates, and supports
16 robotics education in schools across the State, with the current
17 membership from six robotics programs; including Dr. Song K.
18 Choi (VEX Robotics), Sara Tamayose and Aaron Dengler (FIRST Lego
19 League), Art Kimura (Botball), Alexander Ho (FIRST Robotics),
20 Mark Rongstad and Cindy Fong (Underwater ROV), and Eric Hagiwara
21 and Dale Olive (Micro Robotics); and
22

23 WHEREAS, the Robotics Organizing Committee is assisted by
24 state government and local businesses and enjoys widespread
25 community support from teachers, parents, mentors, and other
26 volunteers who generously devote their time and expertise; and
27

28 WHEREAS, enthusiasm for robotics education has grown and is
29 embraced by students across the State in all grade levels, and
30 its popularity is demonstrated by the increased availability of
31 programs in Hawaii's primary, middle, and high schools, which

1 grew from ninety-five teams in January 2008 to over three
2 hundred just a year later; and

3

4 WHEREAS, robotics education stimulates interest in science
5 and math that is needed in our country to motivate students to
6 pursue careers in science, technology, and engineering; and

7

8 WHEREAS, the energy and excitement that comes from hands-on
9 learning experience with robotics transforms theories into
10 working models and generates a thirst for knowledge in science
11 and math to motivate students to pursue highly-skilled and high-
12 paying jobs in robotics, electronics, engineering, and other
13 careers; and

14

15 WHEREAS, as students work toward these careers through
16 robotics education, they will also develop critical thinking,
17 team work, and problem-solving skills to allow them to compete
18 globally; and

19

20 WHEREAS, the Hawaii Botball regional tournament is the
21 largest in the United States, with forty-two participating teams
22 consisting of over four hundred students, teachers, and mentors;
23 and

24

25 WHEREAS, younger students in the FIRST LEGO League build
26 and program robots and prepare presentations on their design and
27 construction, with the objectives typically centered around
28 global challenges; and

29

30 WHEREAS, Hawaii has hosted national, Pan-Pacific, and
31 international events that provide young students with action-
32 packed tournaments and competition from the mainland and other
33 countries; and

34

35 WHEREAS, local high school students have earned the
36 privilege of competing in national and international robotics
37 championships, having successfully created and built
38 innovatively designed robots that have caught the imagination of
39 other students; and

40

41 WHEREAS, Hawaii students participating in robotics have
42 received fully paid NASA internships at NASA Robotics Academies
43 and are eligible to apply for college scholarships sponsored by
44 corporations and other entities; and

SCR97 SD1.DOC

SCR97 SD1.DOC

SCR97 SD1.DOC

1
2 WHEREAS, the robotics aptitude and academic abilities of
3 Hawaii's students have impressed prominent scientific
4 professionals, for example, in a 2008 tournament, in Nagoya,
5 Japan, Hawaii high school students placed second against
6 university students and were invited by the President of the
7 California Institute of Technology to participate in an
8 intensive summer mathematics and science program at the
9 university; and

10
11 WHEREAS, competition is thrilling, and students with little
12 previous interest in robotics are now realizing that a career in
13 science, technology, engineering, or mathematics is not only
14 possible, but satisfying as well; and

15
16 WHEREAS, the wave of enthusiasm surrounding robotics is
17 encouraging and great news for the United States, especially
18 with the tremendous need for engineers in this country; and

19
20 WHEREAS, developing young peoples' capacity for innovation
21 through robotics education trains them to adapt to the changing
22 times and ensures a bright future for the State; now, therefore,

23
24 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fifth
25 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2009, the
26 House of Representatives concurring, that the Legislature
27 encourages the College of Engineering of the University of
28 Hawaii to consider the feasibility of establishing an
29 undergraduate certificate program for robotics and exploration,
30 so that Hawaii's young people may continue their education and
31 training in this field; and

32
33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the College of Engineering work
34 with the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs at the University
35 of Hawaii at Manoa regarding issues related to compliance with
36 the University's academic standards and accreditation policies;
37 and

38
39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the University of Hawaii is
40 requested to submit an initial report on the feasibility of
41 establishing the robotics and exploration certificate program to
42 the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening
43 of the Regular Session of 2010, and a final report no later than

1 twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of
2 2011; and

3

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
5 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of the
6 University of Hawaii, the Chairperson of the Board of Regents of
7 the University of Hawaii, the Chancellor and Vice Chancellor for
8 Academic Affairs of the University of Hawaii at Manoa, and the
9 Dean of the University of Hawaii College of Engineering.