

FEB 12 2009

SENATE 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
4

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
9

10 WHEREAS, the affairs of WASC are administered by a board of
11 directors composed of representatives from the following three
12 commissions:
13

14 (1) Accrediting Commission for Senior Colleges and
15 Universities;
16

17 (2) Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior
18 Colleges; and
19

20 (3) Accrediting Commission for Schools; and
21

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
26

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
31

32 WHEREAS, in addition, the California Department of
33 Education and the Hawaii Department of Education each have an ex
34 officio seat on the Commission; and



1
2 WHEREAS, Hawaii's schools have graduated many distinguished
3 alumni, including two presidents: the current and forty-fourth
4 President of the United States, Barack Hussein Obama; and Dr.
5 Sun Yat-sen, the first President of the Republic of China; and
6

7 WHEREAS, Hawaii's schools offer educational and career
8 opportunities equal to any in the nation; and
9

10 WHEREAS, Hawaii schools, both public and private, are
11 accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges;
12 and
13

14 WHEREAS, both the twenty-five member Accrediting Commission
15 for Senior Colleges and Universities and the nineteen-member
16 Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges are
17 less restrictive in the geographic requirements of their
18 membership; now, therefore,
19

20 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fifth
21 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2009,
22 that the Western Association of Schools and Colleges is
23 requested to amend its Constitution to reflect a more equitable
24 geographic representation among the twenty-six members of the
25 Accrediting Commission for Schools by increasing the
26 representation from Hawaii and decreasing the representation
27 from California so that the two states have equal numbers of
28 members on the Accrediting Commission for Schools; and
29

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
31 Resolution be transmitted to the Executive Director of the
32 Western Association of Schools and Colleges, the Executive
33 Director of the Hawaii Government Employees Association, the
34 Executive Director of the Hawaii Association of Independent
35 Schools, and the Superintendent of Education.
36
37
38

OFFERED BY:

