
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING REPORTS ON THE ECONOMIC VALUE OF EXPANDED WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT CAPACITY AND STEM INITIATIVES.

1 WHEREAS, in 2007, the National Governors Association made
2 improving the nation's economic competitiveness through
3 innovation its primary focus, and in a report titled, "A
4 Benchmarking of the Hawaii Educational System," Monitor Group
5 and the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices
6 profiled how Hawaii's educational system was performing relative
7 to national averages; and
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9 WHEREAS, although Hawaii's high school graduation rate is
10 close to the national average, its postsecondary completion rate
11 is below the national average, and significantly below the
12 highest-performing states; and
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14 WHEREAS, the 2007 Legislature strongly endorsed initiatives
15 related to science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM)
16 fields, and creative media education as the most practical,
17 hands-on means of increasing students' interest in pursuing math
18 and science and technology careers; and
19

20 WHEREAS, emphasizing the need to build upon solid
21 performance outcomes, the Legislature enacted:
22

23 (1) Act 111, Session Laws of Hawaii 2007, which expanded
24 existing STEM programs like robotics (including FIRST
25 Lego League, Junior FIRST Lego League, botball,
26 underwater ROV, VEX, Micro-Robot, and robotics camps)
27 and Research Experiences for Teachers - Middle School;
28 and
29

30 (2) Act 271, Session Laws of Hawaii 2007, which expanded
31 the Environmental and Spatial Technology program
32 (Project EAST);
33

and



1 WHEREAS, the initial legislative targets for 2007-2008 were
2 to double the existing 48 STEM, Research Experiences for
3 Teachers - Middle School, Project EAST, and robotics programs
4 within public schools to achieve a level of 84 school
5 initiatives, and these goals were far exceeded during 2008-2010;
6 now, therefore,
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8 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
9 Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
10 of 2010, the Senate concurring, that a report on the economic
11 value of expanded workforce development capacity be provided by
12 the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
13 (DBEDT), which is responsible for tracking growth of emerging
14 industries in defense and dual-use, astronomy, engineering,
15 aquaculture, biotech, digital media, and related industries; and
16

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that an update on STEM initiatives,
18 including Research Experiences for Teachers - Middle School,
19 Project EAST, Hi-EST, and FIRST academies, and other robotics
20 within Hawaii schools, is requested from the following:
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- 22 (1) University of Hawaii College of Engineering;
- 23
- 24 (2) Department of Education;
- 25
- 26 (3) DBEDT;
- 27
- 28 (4) Robotics Organizing Committee; and
- 29
- 30 (5) Economic Development Alliance of Hawaii Inc., and the
31 Hawaii 3Ts School Technology Laboratories Fund, under
32 section 302A-1314, Hawaii Revised Statutes;
- 33

34 and
35

36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that these entities provide their
37 respective written reports to the Legislature no later than 20
38 days prior to the convening of the 2011 Regular Session on:
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- 40 (1) The economic value of expanded workforce development
41 capacity of emerging industries in defense and dual-
42 use, astronomy, engineering, aquaculture, biotech,
43 digital media, and related industries; and



1 (2) The status of each entity's STEM initiatives,
2 activities, and recommendations for long-term
3 expansion and funding requirements;

4 and

5
6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
7 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Dean of the
8 University of Hawaii College of Engineering; Superintendent of
9 Education; Director of the Department of Business, Economic
10 Development, and Tourism; Executive Director of the Robotics
11 Organizing Committee; and Chair of the Economic Development
12 Alliance of Hawaii Inc.

