
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING A FINANCIAL AND MANAGEMENT AUDIT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION.

1 WHEREAS, Hawaii's public education system has been
2 criticized for its inadequate delivery of educational services
3 and its inability to raise student achievement; and
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5 WHEREAS, the bureaucracy of the Department of Education
6 presents obstacles that could prevent the Department of
7 Education and the individual schools from successfully
8 performing their duties and serving the needs of Hawaii's
9 children; and
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11 WHEREAS, recently, the Department of Education became the
12 subject of local and national news when furloughs were imposed
13 in public schools, which reduced the number of instructional
14 days for students; and
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16 WHEREAS, the Department of Education's leadership was
17 decentralized through the creation of the complex area system to
18 place a greater number of decisions and more funds directly in
19 the hands of individual school administrators; and
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21 WHEREAS, Act 51, Session Laws of Hawaii 2004, was intended
22 to implement comprehensive reform in Hawaii's public schools by,
23 among other things:
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25 (1) Reducing the bureaucracy that hampers the
26 effectiveness of the Department of Education; and
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28 (2) Focusing more resources and control at the individual
29 school level;
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31 and
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1 WHEREAS, today, the Department of Education remains under
2 close public scrutiny, both locally and nationally; and

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4 WHEREAS, the public has raised many questions about the
5 Department of Education's operations, including its finances and
6 management; and

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8 WHEREAS, a financial and management audit of the Department
9 of Education is long overdue; and

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11 WHEREAS, an audit of the Department of Education would
12 improve critical educational services by examining in-depth the
13 effectiveness and efficiency of departmental operations, both at
14 the management and administrative levels, including the:

- 15
16 (1) Organization and management of the Department of
17 Education, especially with regard to personnel; and
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19 (2) Efficacy of fiscal operations, especially with respect
20 to spending and accountability;

21 and

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23
24 WHEREAS, it is imperative that the Department of Education
25 remain committed to providing quality education for all of
26 Hawaii's children, ensuring that all staff members and resources
27 are dedicated to that mission; and

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29 WHEREAS, an audit would ensure that the Department of
30 Education adheres to its mission to provide all of Hawaii's
31 children with the tools they need to be successful in a global
32 society; now, therefore,

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34 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
35 Twenty-sixth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
36 of 2011, the Senate concurring, that the Auditor is requested to
37 perform a financial and management audit of the Department of
38 Education, which shall focus on the administrative duties and
39 responsibilities at the departmental level; and

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41 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Auditor submit a report of
42 its findings and recommendations to the Legislature no later
43 than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session
44 of 2012; and



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 2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 3 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Auditor, the
 4 Chairperson of the Board of Education, and the Superintendent of
 5 Education.

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OFFERED BY:

[Handwritten Signature]

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John M. [Handwritten]

Tom Brown

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