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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO  
APPLY TO THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION FOR A  
WAIVER OF THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND ACT.

1 WHEREAS, in 2001, the United States Congress passed the No  
2 Child Left Behind Act (No Child Left Behind); and

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4 WHEREAS, No Child Left Behind established standards-based  
5 education reform based on the premise that setting high  
6 standards and establishing measurable goals will improve  
7 individual student outcomes; and

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9 WHEREAS, No Child Left Behind requires all public schools  
10 receiving federal funding to administer a statewide standardized  
11 test annually to all students at select grade levels in order to  
12 continue to receive federal funding; and

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14 WHEREAS, achievement levels of students in Hawaii's public  
15 schools have increased, in some cases dramatically, since the  
16 inception of standardized testing under No Child Left Behind;  
17 and

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19 WHEREAS, the percentage of students testing proficient in  
20 reading increased from forty-one percent to sixty-six percent  
21 and the percentage of students testing proficient in math  
22 increased from thirty-nine percent to fifty-four percent in  
23 2011; and

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25 WHEREAS, despite the improvements that have been made, it  
26 is widely believed that all schools throughout the United States  
27 will fail to meet the grade level standards by 2014 as required  
28 by No Child Left Behind; and

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30 WHEREAS, the current presidential administration, in  
31 recognition that the requirements of No Child Left Behind are  
32 unattainable and that Congress has failed to act to remedy the



1 situation, has begun to allow states to apply for a waiver from  
2 the requirements of No Child Left Behind, provided that states  
3 can provide a clear plan of attaining high student outcomes; and  
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5 WHEREAS, ten out of the eleven states that have applied for  
6 a waiver have been granted relief from the requirements of No  
7 Child Left Behind based on their plans to improve student  
8 achievement through the preparation and evaluation of students;  
9 now, therefore,  
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11 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-sixth  
12 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2012, the  
13 House of Representatives concurring, that the Board of Education  
14 and Department of Education are requested to apply to the United  
15 States Department of Education for a waiver from the  
16 requirements of No Child Left Behind; and  
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18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education and the  
19 Department of Education are requested to develop a plan to  
20 improve and attain high student achievement that would be  
21 submitted with the waiver application; and  
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23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education and  
24 Department of Education are requested to provide the Senate  
25 President, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the  
26 Chairs of the Senate Committee on Education and House Committee  
27 on Education with an update once the application for a waiver is  
28 filed and when any response is received from the United States  
29 Department of Education; and  
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31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education and the  
32 Department of Education are requested to conduct an  
33 informational briefing on the status of the waiver application  
34 before the Senate Committee on Education and the House Committee  
35 on Education during the Regular Session of 2013; and  
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37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
38 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Senate President,  
39 Speaker of the House of Representatives, Chairperson of the  
40 Board of Education, and Superintendent of Education.

