

FEB -7 2012

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND BOARD OF EDUCATION TO
INSTITUTE A GREEN HAWAII PROGRAM WITHIN THE PUBLIC SCHOOL
SYSTEM.

1 WHEREAS, caring for the environment can give youth a sense
2 of responsibility for those around them and for the good of the
3 community overall; and
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5 WHEREAS, a heightened sense of one's civic duties promotes
6 the greater well-being and spirit of cooperation in solving
7 common problems and mutual undertakings within their community;
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10 WHEREAS, one of the ways youth can learn civic awareness is
11 through "green projects" which are tasks that promote malama
12 'aina (caring for the land); and
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14 WHEREAS, these tasks are doable by children and youth alike
15 to foster patience and delayed gratification that results in a
16 sense of accomplishment when they see the fruits of their labor
17 benefit their community; and
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19 WHEREAS, green projects teach other values such as
20 preservation and wise stewardship of natural resources, which
21 they will need as adults in order to manage or participate in
22 decisions and actions concerning their civic duties; and
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24 WHEREAS, recycling plastic and aluminum containers cleans
25 up the area for aesthetic improvement and provides a small
26 source of income for other student projects and needs of the
27 schools; and
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29 WHEREAS, grass and landscaping cuttings can be used as
30 mulch to cover the lawn to reduce irrigation demands and return
31 nutrients back to the soil on school property; and
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WHEREAS, vermi-composting provides a safer source of fertilizer for organic school gardens; and

WHEREAS, xeriscape designs incorporating the use of native flora reduces irrigation demand and simultaneously conserves precious freshwater resources; and

WHEREAS, organic gardening teaches children and youth that food comes out of the ground, introduces them to the vital agriculture industry as a career, and fosters a respect for agricultural endeavors; and

WHEREAS, these projects in conservation and recycling can also serve to help alleviate school budgets by reducing, reusing, and conserving resources; raise funds for other student projects; and teach students about budgeting in a demonstrable way; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-sixth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2012, the House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of Education and Board of Education are requested to establish a Green Hawaii program, requiring all public schools, including charter schools, to perform at least five "Green Hawaii" projects within each school year, beginning with the school year 2015-2016; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Superintendent of Education, Board of Education, and the Hawaii State Student Council.

OFFERED BY:

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