

FEB 16 2012

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## SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

ENCOURAGING THE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO ALLOW PUBLIC SCHOOL CAMPUSES THAT HAVE SMALLER STUDENT ENROLLMENTS TO BE USED FOR AGING AND DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTERS, SENIOR CENTERS, AND OTHER KUPUNA-RELATED PROGRAMS TO MEET COMMUNITY NEEDS AND AVOID THE CLOSURE OF SCHOOLS.

1 WHEREAS, the Board of Education and Department of Education  
2 are charged with determining whether certain public schools in  
3 the State should be closed or otherwise consolidated; and  
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5 WHEREAS, the procedures for closure and consolidation of  
6 public schools require the Superintendent of Education to  
7 appoint a task force to study the possible consolidation and  
8 make a report and recommendation to the Board of Education; and  
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10 WHEREAS, low student enrollment is often cited as a reason  
11 to close certain schools; and  
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13 WHEREAS, rather than closing schools based upon low student  
14 enrollment, portions of these schools could be repurposed to  
15 serve the community in other ways; and  
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17 WHEREAS, as Hawaii's population ages, the demand for senior  
18 services, senior centers, and related resources continues to  
19 grow; and  
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21 WHEREAS, public schools being considered for closure could  
22 be used to support an increasingly aging population by allowing  
23 a portion of school facilities to be used for aging and  
24 disability resource centers, senior centers, and other kupuna-  
25 related programs; and  
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27 WHEREAS, a flexible policy could be developed to allow  
28 school campuses to be used for aging and disability resource  
29 centers, senior centers, and other kupuna-related programs when  
30 student enrollment is low but would remain available for school-



1 aged children should enrollment numbers increase overtime; now,  
2 therefore,  
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4 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-sixth  
5 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2012, the  
6 House of Representatives concurring, that the Board of Education  
7 and Department of Education are encouraged to consider allowing  
8 public school campuses with smaller student enrollments to be  
9 used for aging and disability resource centers, senior centers,  
10 and other kupuna-related programs to meet community needs and  
11 avoid the closure of schools; and  
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13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education and  
14 Department of Education are encouraged to consider a flexible  
15 policy that allows school campuses to be better utilized based  
16 on the changing demographics of the community; and  
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18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education and  
19 Department of Education are encouraged to consult with the  
20 Director of the Executive Office on Aging to determine the  
21 feasibility of using a portion of public school campuses for  
22 services and programs that benefit Hawaii's aging population;  
23 and  
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25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
26 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairman of the  
27 Board of Education, Superintendent of Education, and Director of  
28 the Executive Office on Aging.  
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OFFERED BY: Erzanne Chun Oakland

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Rose & Bel  
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Will Eyo  
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Carl Fukunaga

