
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO REVIEW AND MODIFY BOARD
POLICY NO. 6710 TO IDENTIFY WAYS TO INCORPORATE
SUSTAINABILITY EDUCATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP AT
THE CLASSROOM LEVEL.

1 WHEREAS, the ability to support and sustain ourselves in
2 today's world requires an ability to adapt to global changes and
3 educate ourselves about the need to find the right balance of
4 growing our economy, keeping our land healthy, and preserving
5 our natural resources; and

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7 WHEREAS, sustainable use of resources and clean energy are
8 essential to Hawaii given its location in the middle of the
9 Pacific Ocean; and

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11 WHEREAS, Hawaii's current dependence on foreign oil and
12 non-domestic food threatens our ability to provide for
13 ourselves; and

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15 WHEREAS, approximately seventy-seven per cent of the
16 electricity consumed in Hawaii is generated by burning imported
17 oil and ninety per cent of the food consumed in the State is
18 imported; and

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20 WHEREAS, Senate Bill No. 937 (2013), currently being
21 considered by the Legislature, would establish a new program in
22 the Department of Agriculture to increase food resiliency in the
23 State to address the risk of food shortages in the event of
24 natural disasters, economic disruptions, and other external
25 factors; and

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27 WHEREAS, the United States is falling behind in the rapidly
28 growing clean energy industry, and its educational system and
29 workforce are not prepared to compete on a global scale; and

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1 WHEREAS, the United States Department of Energy and
2 Department of Education, the United Nations Decade of Education
3 for Sustainable Development, and the Hawaii 2050 Sustainability
4 Plan call for the values, activities, and principles inherently
5 linked to sustainability to be integrated into the educational
6 endeavors of our schools; and

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8 WHEREAS, sustainability education must incorporate the four
9 main areas of sustainability: food, waste, energy, and water;
10 and

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12 WHEREAS, the current science curriculum for public high
13 school students includes physical science, biological science,
14 earth and space science, physics, chemistry, environmental
15 science, marine science, plants and animals in Hawaii, human
16 physiology, zoology, and botany; and

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18 WHEREAS, the unique character and traditions of the State,
19 including the ahupua'a system, provide meaningful opportunities
20 to study and implement a sustainability education approach to
21 promote the Hawaiian culture while providing security for
22 generations of residents to come; and

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24 WHEREAS, Board Policy No. 6710 addresses the issue of
25 sustainability but limits it to the Department of Education's
26 facilities; and

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28 WHEREAS, sustainability education should be incorporated
29 into the current science courses and made available to all
30 public school students in Hawaii; now, therefore,

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32 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
33 Twenty-seventh Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
34 Session of 2013, the Senate concurring, that the Board of
35 Education is requested to review and modify Board Policy No.
36 6710 to identify ways to incorporate sustainability education
37 and environmental stewardship at the classroom level,
38 specifically identifying the common core and/or content areas
39 that may incorporate such classes; and

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41 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education and
42 Department of Education are requested to identify and encourage,
43 as appropriate, opportunities to engage students, classes, and



1 schools in activities including but not limited to project-based
2 learning, mentorships, and data collection in connection with
3 Board Policy No. 6710 at the complex area support level; and
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5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education is
6 requested to report its findings and recommendations, including
7 any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than
8 twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of
9 2014; and
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11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
12 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the
13 Board of Education and the Superintendent of Education.

