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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO IMPLEMENT OCEAN AND WATER  
SAFETY EDUCATION PROGRAMS FOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENTS.

1           WHEREAS, Hawaii has seen a recent spike in ocean drownings;  
2 and

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4           WHEREAS, residents and visitors lack sufficient ocean and  
5 water safety education; and

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7           WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
8 reports that from 2005 to 2014, there were an average of 3,536  
9 fatal unintentional drownings, non-boating related, annually in  
10 the United States; and

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12           WHEREAS, one in five people who die from drowning are  
13 children fourteen years of age and younger; and

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15           WHEREAS, school districts in other states have included  
16 swimming lessons and ocean safety education into their physical  
17 education classes; and

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19           WHEREAS, ocean and water safety awareness at a young age is  
20 a key factor in drowning prevention; now, therefore,

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22           BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-ninth  
23 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2018, the  
24 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of  
25 Education is urged to implement ocean and water safety education  
26 programs for elementary school students; and

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28           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the ocean and water safety  
29 education programs may be addressed in schools through  
30 partnerships with external organizations or other departments;  
31 and  
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the ocean and water safety  
2 curriculum is requested to include, at a minimum:

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4 (1) Rip current awareness;  
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6 (2) Ocean safety tips; and  
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8 (3) Proper swimming techniques; and  
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10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
11 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the  
12 Board of Education and Superintendent of Education.