HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS TO EVALUATE THE POTENTIAL IMPACTS OF MANDATING LICENSURE OF ALL PRIVATE SCHOOLS IN THE STATE.

WHEREAS, prior to June 1995, private schools in the State were licensed by the Department of Education; and

WHEREAS, Act 188, Session Laws of Hawaii 1995 (Act 188) was enacted, which repealed the law that gave the Department of Education responsibility for both the licensing of private schools and the certification of private school teachers; and

WHEREAS, subsequently, a Task Force on Private School Governance was established to consider the implications of Act 188 and to develop a plan for private school self-regulation; and

WHEREAS, the Hawaii Council of Private Schools was formed to implement provisions of the plan and became the entity responsible for implementing a plan for private school self-regulation, and now performs the functions and assumes the responsibilities of the Department of Education for the licensing of all private schools in the State; and

WHEREAS, the Hawaii Council of Private Schools approves private schools offering kindergarten through grade 12 that meet the standards established by the Council, as well as approves accrediting associations that meet Council requirements for accrediting schools offering preschool through grade 12 and serves as a liaison with the Department of Education on issues of private school quality and accountability; and

WHEREAS, while registration of private schools in the State is required, the licensing and accreditation of private schools are voluntary; and
WHEREAS, to open a private school, the only requirement is a registration requirement: an operator of a private school must obtain a charter from the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs and a general excise tax license; and

WHEREAS, not all private schools are licensed by the Hawaii Council of Private Schools or by another entity; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2018, that the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs is requested to evaluate the potential impacts of mandating licensure of all private schools in the State; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs is requested to submit its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days before the convening of the Regular Session of 2019; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Commerce and Consumer Affairs, Superintendent of Education, Executive Director of the Hawaii Council of Private Schools, and Executive Director of the Hawaii Association of Independent Schools.

OFFERED BY:

[Signatures]