
SENATE 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,
24 that the Department of Education is urged to implement ocean and
25 water safety education programs for elementary school students;
26 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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33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the ocean and water safety
34 curriculum is requested to include, at a minimum:



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

