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## HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO ADVANCE THE QUALITY OF  
EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING FOR HAWAII'S STUDENTS BY MINIMIZING  
THE USE OF EXTERNAL CONTRACTS FOR CURRICULA, INSTRUCTION,  
AND TESTING FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

1 WHEREAS, a report by the Department of Education's Office  
2 of Hawaiian Education found that cultural dissonance in schools,  
3 or "the tension students feel as a result of incongruence  
4 between their cultural meaning-making-systems and new cultural  
5 information they encounter", was a predictive indicator of  
6 achievement gaps for Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander  
7 students; and

8  
9 WHEREAS, this cultural dissonance can be mitigated through  
10 culturally appropriate curricula that affirms students' unique  
11 cultural and historical backgrounds and identities; and

12  
13 WHEREAS, the Legislature finds that the ethnic and  
14 socioeconomic diversity of Hawaii's public school student  
15 population requires such place-based and culturally appropriate  
16 curricula; and

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18 WHEREAS, the Department of Education's contract with  
19 Acellus Learning Accelerator during the COVID-19 pandemic  
20 exposed thousands of students to content that was biased against  
21 racial, sexual, and gender minorities, and reflected an  
22 inaccurate, incomplete, or prejudicial view of historical  
23 events; and

24  
25 WHEREAS, in October 2020, concerns raised by parents,  
26 teachers, and community members led the Board of Education to  
27 unanimously vote to phase out the Acellus Learning Accelerator  
28 and virtual learning program by the end of the 2020-2021 school  
29 year; and



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1           WHEREAS, in November 2020, the Department of Education  
2 released its report affirming those concerns and finding that  
3 the Acellus lessons were not aligned with Hawaii content  
4 performance standards; and

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6           WHEREAS, empowering professionals who are most directly  
7 involved with instructional delivery, especially teachers, to  
8 develop learning materials will ensure that students are  
9 provided with educational opportunities that are culturally  
10 sensitive and account for different learning styles; now,  
11 therefore,

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13           BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
14 Thirty-first Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
15 of 2021, the Senate concurring, that the Department of Education  
16 is urged to advance the integrity, cultural appropriateness, and  
17 quality of educational programming for Hawaii's students by  
18 minimizing the use of external contracts for curricula,  
19 instruction, and testing for public schools; and

20  
21           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education, in  
22 consultation with the Board of Education, is urged to develop  
23 and implement a plan to reduce the use of external contracts for  
24 curricula, instruction, and testing, including recommendations  
25 for additional steps to reduce external contracts; and

26  
27           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is  
28 urged to convene an advisory committee to make recommendations  
29 to assist the Department in developing and implementing the  
30 aforementioned plan; and

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32           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the advisory committee include  
33 members from the exclusive representative for bargaining unit 5  
34 and other stakeholders deemed appropriate by the Department of  
35 Education; and

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37           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is  
38 requested to submit to the Legislature reports of its progress  
39 in developing and implementing the plan, as follows:

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41           (1) An interim report, including a list of advisory  
42           committee members, findings, recommendations, and a



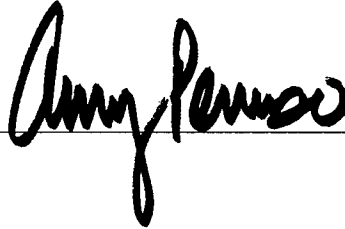
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1 timeline for completing the plan and its  
2 implementation, no later than twenty days prior to the  
3 convening of the Regular Session of 2022; and  
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- 5 (2) A final report which shall include the plan and any  
6 proposed legislation to implement the plan, if  
7 necessary, no later than twenty days prior to the  
8 convening of the Regular Session of 2023; and  
9

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
11 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor,  
12 Chairperson of the Board of Education, and Superintendent of  
13 Education.  
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OFFERED BY: \_\_\_\_\_



MAR 01 2021

