

MAR 09 2021

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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE STATE OF HAWAII DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE TO CONTINUE TO  
OPERATE THE HAWAII NATIONAL GUARD YOUTH CHALLENGE ACADEMY  
HILO CAMPUS.

1           WHEREAS, the mission of the National Guard youth challenge  
2 program is to intervene in and reclaim the lives of sixteen to  
3 eighteen year old "at promise" youth and produce program  
4 graduates with the values, life skills, education, and self-  
5 discipline necessary to succeed as productive citizens; and  
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7           WHEREAS, the National Guard youth challenge program is a  
8 community-based program that leads, trains, and mentors sixteen  
9 to eighteen year old youth so that they may become productive  
10 citizens in America's future; and  
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12           WHEREAS, this award-winning program has been recognized as  
13 one of the nation's most effective and cost efficient programs  
14 for targeting youth who are at the greatest risk for substance  
15 abuse, teen pregnancy, delinquency, and criminal activity; and  
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17           WHEREAS, the Hawaii National Guard Youth Challenge  
18 Academy's endeavor is to provide the State of Hawaii with a  
19 premier progressive alternative school for "at-promise" youth  
20 that focuses on lessons in character, education, moral values,  
21 life-coping skills, and responsible citizenship; and  
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23           WHEREAS, the twenty-two week residential phase is followed  
24 by a year-long mentoring relationship with a specially trained  
25 member from each youth's community; and  
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27           WHEREAS, the eight core components of the program are:  
28 academy excellence, health and hygiene, job skills, leadership  
29 and followership, life coping skills, service to the community,  
30 physical fitness, and responsible citizenship; and  
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1           WHEREAS, seventy-eight percent of challenge graduates  
2 receive their high school equivalency diploma; forty-eight  
3 percent join the workforce; nineteen percent continue their  
4 education; and six percent join the military; and

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6           WHEREAS, program participants donate over nine thousand  
7 hours of community service annually, valued at more than  
8 \$175,000; and

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10           WHEREAS, the Hawaii National Guard Youth Challenge Academy  
11 has awarded more than three thousand eight hundred academic  
12 credentials; and

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14           WHEREAS, the Hawaii National Guard Youth Challenge  
15 Academy's Hilo Campus has been extremely successful in  
16 dissuading at-risk youths from causing harm to others and  
17 themselves; and

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19           WHEREAS, the Hawaii National Guard Youth Challenge  
20 Academy's Hilo Campus is especially important, due to the  
21 limited resources available to at-risk youths from east Hawaii  
22 island; and

23  
24           WHEREAS, the Hawaii National Guard Youth Challenge  
25 Academy's Hilo Campus is tailored to those cadets from rural  
26 areas of Hawaii island; and

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28           WHEREAS, due to budget constraints, the Hawaii Department  
29 of Defense is expected to close the Hawaii National Guard Youth  
30 Challenge Academy's Hilo Campus and eliminate forty-two  
31 positions; and

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33           WHEREAS, the invaluable benefits associated with Hawaii  
34 National Guard Youth Challenge Academy's Hilo Campus, affirm the  
35 need for a cooperative effort to avoid its closure; now,  
36 therefore,

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38           BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first  
39 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2021, the  
40 House of Representatives concurring, that the Hawaii State  
41 Department of Defense is urged to continue to operate the Hawaii  
42 National Guard Youth Challenge Academy's Hilo Campus; and



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2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
3 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Adjunct  
4 General, Director of Public Safety, and Superintendent of  
5 Education.

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OFFERED BY: 

