

MAR 12 2021

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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO AUTHORIZE AN E-SPORTS  
PROGRAM FOR PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOLS IN THE STATE.

1           WHEREAS, electronic sports, more commonly known as  
2 e-sports, are video game competitions, often in organized,  
3 multiplayer video games, among professional players who compete  
4 individually or as teams; and

5  
6           WHEREAS, the e-sports industry is projected to produce more  
7 than \$1,000,000,000 in global revenue each year, with video game  
8 companies being a major driver of jobs in the United States and  
9 generating more revenue than the music and film industries  
10 combined; and

11  
12           WHEREAS, nearly seventy percent of all Americans play video  
13 games, and more than one hundred colleges in North America have  
14 started scholarship-based e-sports programs that foster and  
15 develop innovative educational and work opportunities,  
16 sportsmanship, discipline, dedication, and awareness and  
17 education to avoid unhealthy gaming habits; and

18  
19           WHEREAS, the University of Hawaii has been asked to partner  
20 with other Pacific Rim universities in South Korea and China, as  
21 well as other jurisdictions in the United States that are doing  
22 cutting-edge e-sports research; and

23  
24           WHEREAS, a University of Hawaii e-sports program could  
25 promote career development, research, and competition amongst  
26 other universities; and

27  
28           WHEREAS, the support of high school e-sports in Hawaii  
29 could aid in creating a path for students to attend college  
30 through networking, scholarships, and mentorship; and

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32           WHEREAS, high school e-sports have been resilient with  
33 keeping tournaments on schedule through 2020, during a time



1 when the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic has led to  
2 the suspension and cancellation of traditional sporting events  
3 around the country; and  
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5 WHEREAS, during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, e-sports  
6 offer a safe alternative to other forms of competition, which  
7 often involve direct contact between players, or which put  
8 players in close proximity; and  
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10 WHEREAS, a school-based e-sports program in the State's  
11 public high schools could promote competition and school pride  
12 amongst students; and  
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14 WHEREAS, the support of high school e-sports could inspire  
15 student interest in Science, Technology, Engineering, and  
16 Mathematics (STEM) topics at a young age; and  
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18 WHEREAS, high school e-sports, along with the development  
19 and support of college e-sports at the University of Hawaii  
20 and Hawaii Pacific University, could lead to new ways of  
21 diversifying the State's economy for the future; and  
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23 WHEREAS, the overall promotion of e-sports in education  
24 could put Hawaii at the cutting edge of digital youth culture,  
25 which may attract interests from video game publishers and  
26 developers for further investments in the State in this  
27 burgeoning area; and  
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29 WHEREAS, in 2019 the Legislature previously adopted House  
30 Resolution 216 House Draft 1, Senate Draft 1, which expressed  
31 support of the University of Hawaii's development of a  
32 comprehensive e-sports program designed to promote students'  
33 passion for video games through competition and social  
34 interactions, foster personal growth and academic research, and  
35 educate and prepare students for opportunities in the video game  
36 industry; now, therefore,  
37

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 Board of Education  
41 is requested to authorize an e-sports program for public high  
42 schools in the State; and



# S.C.R. NO. 249

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
2 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the  
3 Board of Education, Superintendent of Education, and Executive  
4 Director of the State Public Charter School Commission.

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OFFERED BY:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "J. R. R.", is written over a horizontal line.