

MAR 03 2016

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO ENSURE THAT SPECIAL
EDUCATION TEACHERS HAVE ADEQUATE TIME TO PLAN AND PREPARE
INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION PROGRAMS FOR THEIR STUDENTS.

1 WHEREAS, special education services, including academic,
2 speech-language, psychological, physical and occupational, and
3 counseling accommodations, meet the unique needs of students
4 with disabilities; and

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6 WHEREAS, based on the various levels of students in their
7 classes, special education teachers adapt education lessons in
8 language, math, reading, and writing; teach basic skills in
9 communication and literacy; plan, organize, and assign
10 activities that are specific to each student's abilities;
11 implement and update individualized education programs; assess
12 students' performance, and track their progress and goals
13 throughout the school year; and

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15 WHEREAS, as many as one third of Hawaii's special education
16 students require individualized education programs; and

17
18 WHEREAS, in a survey conducted in 2015 by the Hawaii State
19 Teachers Association, seventy percent of special education
20 teachers reported that they were not given adequate time to
21 lesson plan or complete individualized education programs during
22 the work day; and

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24 WHEREAS, a decrease in the workload of special education
25 teachers will give those teachers the ability to devote more
26 time to preparing individualized education programs, leading to
27 increased learning growth for special education students; now,
28 therefore,

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30 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-eighth
31 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2016, the
32 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of



S.C.R. NO. 50

1 Education is requested to ensure that, in addition to planning
 2 time and preparation periods specified in any collectively
 3 bargained agreement, special education teachers have at least
 4 forty hours per year to use, at the discretion of the teacher,
 5 for the completion of individualized education programs; and
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7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that during this additional
 8 preparation time, teachers should not be required to interact
 9 with students or perform other duties; and
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11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 12 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the
 13 Board of Education and Superintendent of Education.
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OFFERED BY: Michelle Sidani

Paul John David [Signature]

[Signature]

Clarence W. [Signature]

Ronald H. [Signature]

Breene [Signature]

