

JAN 24 2007

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO WORK WITH APPROPRIATE ENTITIES TO EXTEND THE LENGTH OF THE SCHOOL DAY TO ACCOMMODATE INCREASED PHYSICAL EDUCATION, ART, AND MUSIC REQUIREMENTS.

1 WHEREAS, the number of obese children has tripled over the
2 past three decades, posing serious health risks and rapidly
3 rising obesity-related health care costs for ailments such as
4 diabetes, heart disease, stroke, high blood pressure, and
5 asthma; and

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7 WHEREAS, Hawaii's adolescent obesity rate has doubled over
8 the past two decades, with twenty-two per cent of boys and girls
9 in Hawaii considered overweight; and

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11 WHEREAS, studies have shown that a child who is physically
12 healthy is more likely to be academically motivated, alert, and
13 successful; and

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15 WHEREAS, children spend a large part of their lives in
16 school, thus giving schools the opportunity to help them get
17 more physical exercise and provide education on health
18 maintenance; and

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20 WHEREAS, although high school graduation requirements
21 include one credit of physical education, there is a lack of an
22 adequate and consistent physical education curriculum at the
23 elementary and middle school grade levels; and

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25 WHEREAS, art and music instruction in the public schools
26 has been curtailed or eliminated to focus on academic
27 requirements and standards; and

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29 WHEREAS, art instruction promotes an appreciation for
30 society's creative expressions of various art forms and
31 encourages individual creativity; and



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1 WHEREAS, studies show that music instruction helps with a
2 student's acquisition of logic and math skills; and
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4 WHEREAS, a significant increase in the amount of activity
5 and exercise in a physical education curriculum, along with art
6 and music instruction during school hours, would require a
7 longer school day; now, therefore,
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9 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth
10 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2007, the
11 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of
12 Education is respectfully requested to work with the Board of
13 Education, the Governor, and the Hawaii State Teachers
14 Association to consider extending the school day for elementary
15 and middle schools to accommodate increased physical education,
16 art, and music requirements to further the well-being of
17 Hawaii's youth and to prevent the development of adult obesity;
18 and
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20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
21 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Superintendent of
22 Education, the Chairperson of the Board of Education, the
23 Governor, and the President of the Hawaii State Teachers
24 Association.
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OFFERED BY:

Shianne Chun O'Alana
Norman Sakuma
Carol H. Baker
Carol Fukuoka
J. Alan Glick
Will Sykes

