

---

---

# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION CONDUCT A  
FEASIBILITY STUDY TO EXAMINE VARIOUS IMPACTS OF A LONGER  
SCHOOL DAY AND INCREASING THE NUMBER OF DAYS IN THE SCHOOL  
YEAR ON KINDERGARTEN THROUGH GRADE TWELVE STUDENTS.

1 WHEREAS, the United States is not keeping pace with the  
2 rest of the industrialized world, in that the United States, in  
3 2006, ranked behind the top five countries in the percentage of  
4 twenty to twenty-four-year-olds with a high school credential;  
5 slipped to fifth among the countries in the percentage of  
6 eighteen to twenty-four-year-olds enrolled in college; and  
7 ranked in the bottom half of the countries, sixteenth out of  
8 twenty-seven, on the proportion of students who completed  
9 college certificates or degree programs; and

10

11 WHEREAS, in 2006, Hawaii ranked forty-fifth out of fifty  
12 states in high school and college completion percentages because  
13 thirty-five per cent of students in Hawaii did not complete high  
14 school; thirty-one per cent of the high school graduates did not  
15 immediately enroll in college after graduation; twenty-one per  
16 cent of college students did not graduate within six years of  
17 entering college; and only thirteen per cent of college students  
18 graduated within six years of a four-year program and three  
19 years of a two-year program; and

20

21 WHEREAS, the State wants to see its keiki succeed;  
22 therefore, every effort needs to be made to assure that our  
23 keiki are prepared to graduate from high school and college; and

24

25 WHEREAS, one major way to accomplish this goal is to  
26 increase the amount of time the students are in school; and

27

28 WHEREAS, in Hawaii, students participate in one hundred and  
29 eighty days of instruction on average per year, which is near  
30 the nationwide average of one hundred and eighty-three to one  
31 hundred and eighty-four days of instruction per year; and



1  
2 WHEREAS, in countries such as Japan and Germany, the  
3 students participate in up to two hundred and forty days of  
4 instruction per year; and  
5

6 WHEREAS, the cost associated with increasing the number of  
7 days of instruction per year in Hawaii would be offset by an  
8 increase in the number of qualified workers, a decrease in the  
9 number of people needing public support, an increase in the  
10 number of people able to directly enter the workforce after high  
11 school and college, and an increase in the number of people  
12 eligible to attend graduate school; thus, the standard of living  
13 would increase for all of Hawaii's residents; and  
14

15 WHEREAS, some of the professional educators and support  
16 staff already work twelve months per year; therefore, the major  
17 impact would be on the direct teaching force necessitating  
18 consideration of additional educators or increased or additional  
19 salary; and  
20

21 WHEREAS, where previous discussions focused on the concept  
22 of "intelligence" and the relative importance of nature versus  
23 nurture, the current debate focuses on "cognitive development"  
24 and the respective influences of genes and the environment; and  
25

26 WHEREAS, "intelligence" was perceived as static and  
27 immutable, while "cognitive development" is viewed as a dynamic  
28 and continuous process affected by the environment, and, in  
29 particular, by a high-quality education; and  
30

31 WHEREAS, although teaching all students at the level of the  
32 average student was previously acceptable, the educational  
33 system now aims to provide a learning environment in which all  
34 children meet and even exceed curriculum standards and reach  
35 their full potential as productive citizens; and  
36

37 WHEREAS, more time spent in a quality learning environment  
38 increases a student's opportunity for improved learning; and  
39

40 WHEREAS, learning is enhanced by a cross-disciplinary  
41 environment where art, music, games, and physical activity are  
42 all part of the curriculum; now, therefore,  
43



1 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth  
2 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2008, the  
3 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of  
4 Education is requested to conduct a feasibility study:

5  
6 (1) To determine whether an extension of the school day,  
7 designed to provide increased academic and  
8 sociocultural opportunities for students in  
9 kindergarten through grade twelve, is an affordable  
10 and sound investment for the State; and

11  
12 (2) To examine the benefits and detriments involved in  
13 increasing the number of days of instruction in the  
14 current school year by ten days, twenty days, and any  
15 other number of days as deemed appropriate; and

16  
17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is  
18 requested to include in the report:

19  
20 (1) Information regarding the average number of classroom  
21 hours and instruction days for a student in Hawaii, in  
22 the nation as a whole, and in industrialized nations  
23 whose academic performance exceeds that of the United  
24 States;

25  
26 (2) An examination of the financial cost to districts and  
27 states that have an extended school day;

28  
29 (3) Information about the content offerings of extended  
30 school day programs;

31  
32 (4) Information on what could be learned by the students  
33 during the additional days of instruction;

34  
35 (5) Potential schedules for extending the days of  
36 instruction in the school year;

37  
38 (6) A breakdown of the number of hours of learning  
39 involved in an increased schedule; and

40  
41 (7) The fiscal and non-fiscal impacts on the State, the  
42 Department of Education, the teachers and support  
43 staff, and the students and their families; and  
44



1  
2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department is requested to  
3 submit a report of findings and recommendations, including  
4 proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty  
5 days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2009; and

6  
7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
8 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Superintendent of  
9 Education and the Chairperson of the Board of Education.

