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# HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO INCORPORATE SUSTAINABILITY  
EDUCATION INTO THE SCIENCE CURRICULUM OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

1           WHEREAS, the ability to support and sustain ourselves in  
2 today's world requires an ability to adapt to global changes and  
3 educate ourselves about the need to find the right balance of  
4 growing our economy, keeping our land healthy, and preserving  
5 our natural resources; and

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7           WHEREAS, sustainable use of resources and clean energy are  
8 essential to Hawaii given its location in the middle of the  
9 Pacific Ocean; and

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11           WHEREAS, Hawaii's current dependence on foreign oil and  
12 non-domestic food threatens our ability to provide for  
13 ourselves; and

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15           WHEREAS, approximately seventy-seven per cent of the  
16 electricity consumed in Hawaii is generated by burning imported  
17 oil and ninety per cent of the food consumed in the State is  
18 imported; and

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20           WHEREAS, Senate Bill No. 937 (2013), currently being  
21 considered by the Legislature, would establish a new branch in  
22 the Department of Agriculture to increase food resiliency in the  
23 State to address the risk of food shortages in the event of  
24 natural disasters, economic disruptions, and other external  
25 factors; and

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27           WHEREAS, the United States is falling behind in the rapidly  
28 growing clean energy industry, and its educational system and  
29 workforce are not prepared to compete on a global scale; and

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31           WHEREAS, the United States Department of Energy and  
32 Department of Education, the United Nations Decade of Education



# H.C.R. NO.

1 for Sustainable Development, and the Hawaii 2050 Sustainability  
2 Plan, call for the values, activities, and principles inherently  
3 linked to sustainability to be integrated into the educational  
4 endeavors of our schools; and

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6 WHEREAS, sustainability education must incorporate the four  
7 main areas of sustainability: food; waste; energy; and water;  
8 and

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10 WHEREAS, the current science curriculum for public high  
11 school students includes physical science, biological science,  
12 earth and space science, physics, chemistry, environmental  
13 science, marine science, plants and animals in Hawaii, human  
14 physiology, zoology, and botany; and

15  
16 WHEREAS, the unique character and traditions of the State,  
17 including the ahupuaa system, provide meaningful opportunities  
18 to study and implement a sustainability education approach to  
19 promote the Hawaiian culture while providing security for  
20 generations of residents to come; and

21  
22 WHEREAS, sustainability education should be incorporated  
23 into the current science courses and made available to all  
24 public school students in Hawaii; now, therefore,

25  
26 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
27 Twenty-seventh Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
28 Session of 2013, the Senate concurring, that the Board of  
29 Education is requested to incorporate sustainability education  
30 into the science curriculum of public schools; and

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32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
33 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the  
34 Board of Education and the Superintendent of Education.

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OFFERED BY: *Denny Coffman*

