

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

3169

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 24 2008

RE: S.C.R. No. 72
S.D. 1

Honorable Colleen Hanabusa
President of the Senate
Twenty-Fourth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2008
State of Hawaii

Madam:

Your Committee on Education, to which was referred S.C.R.
No. 72 entitled:

"SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION REQUESTING THAT THE DEPARTMENT
OF EDUCATION CONDUCT A FEASIBILITY STUDY TO EXAMINE VARIOUS
IMPACTS OF A LONGER SCHOOL DAY ON KINDERGARTEN THROUGH GRADE
TWELVE STUDENTS,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to request the Department of
Education to conduct a feasibility study on the impacts of a
longer school day for students, grades kindergarten through
twelve.

Testimony in opposition of this measure was submitted by the
Department of Education.

Your Committee finds that, across the country, states are
moving toward lengthening school days at struggling schools, as a
result of poor test results and the failure to meet standards
under the No Child Left Behind Act. The increased time spent at
school during a school day, among other things, offers students
who might not otherwise attend voluntary after-school programs to
spend additional time on their studies. Additionally, the extra
time can bolster not only instruction in core subjects, such as
math, English, and science, but also allow time for study in
elective courses that enhance and support the learning experience,
including art, music, and drama. This measure requests the
Department of Education to conduct a feasibility study on the

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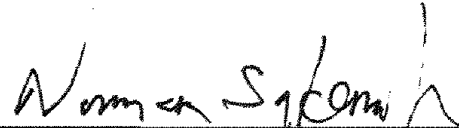
advantages and disadvantages of extending the current school day for students in grades kindergarten through twelve. Your Committee believes the study is necessary to properly explore not only the potential benefits, but also the additional costs and other consequences of making such a change.

Additionally, your Committee finds that, on average, American students attend school approximately one hundred and eighty-three days per year, with Hawaii students participating in approximately one hundred and eighty days of instruction per year. However, in many other academically successful countries, the average days of instruction per year total approximately one hundred and ninety days to in excess of two hundred and forty days, such as in the United Kingdom, Japan, and Germany. As a result, it is unreasonable and unfair to expect students in Hawaii, or throughout the nation, to perform at the same level as their peers in these other countries where the students have spent what may ultimately be the equivalent of additional years in school by the time of high school graduation. Your Committee determines that examination of increasing the number of days of instruction in the current school year is also necessary to further explore methods for improving students' academic achievement and overall performance on standardized tests, particularly in schools where test scores are lower than the national or state averages.

Accordingly, your Committee has amended this measure and its title by including a request that the Department of Education also examine the benefits and detriments involved in increasing the number of days of instruction in the current school year.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Education that is attached to this report, your Committee concurs with the intent and purpose of S.C.R. No. 72, as amended herein, and recommends its adoption in the form attached hereto as S.C.R. No. 72, S.D. 1.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Education,




NORMAN SAKAMOTO, Chair



The Senate
 Twenty-Fourth Legislature
 State of Hawaii

**Record of Votes
 Committee on Education
 EDU**

Bill / Resolution No.:*	Committee Referral:	Date:		
SCR 72	EDU	3/12/08		
<input type="checkbox"/> The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is: <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
SAKAMOTO, Norman (C)	X			
TOKUDA, Jill N. (VC)	X			
CHUN OAKLAND, Suzanne				X
GABBARD, Mike	X			
HEE, Clayton				X
NISHIHARA, Clarence K.	X			
TANIGUCHI, Brian T.				X
SLOM, Sam	X			
TOTAL	5	0	0	3
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: 				
Distribution: Original Yellow Pink Goldenrod File with Committee Report Clerk's Office Drafting Agency Committee File Copy				

*Only one measure per Record of Votes