LEGISLATIVE REPORT

SUBJECT: Integrating Peace Education Into the School Curriculum

REFERENCE: HCR 055, HR 035, SR 093

ACTION REQUESTED: Report on feasibility of subject matter.

DOE REPORT:

Introduction:

These resolutions urge the Department of Education to study the feasibility of integrating Peace Education into the school curriculum.

It is important to understand what Peace Education is. Though definitions vary, the following definition from Peter Lucas, Teachers College, Columbia University, gives the scope under which Peace Education may fall. He writes:

> "Essentially, peace education is the transmission of knowledge needed to achieve and maintain both negative and positive peace. It is also about developing the critical and reflective capacities to apply knowledge in order to control, reduce, and eliminate various forms of violence. Negative peace refers to the practices to limit and prevent war and collective violence. Positive peace is more concerned with establishing life-long and life-enhancing human rights values as a necessary pre-condition to peace. Presently, in the schools, peace education includes programs such as diversity education, character education, peace and justice education, conflict resolution, civic and democratic education, and violence-prevention education."

In many schools, the themes addressed in Peace Education are part of the curricula in Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, Language Arts, etc. Such themes as caring for the environment and addressing hunger and homelessness can be incorporated into many content areas. When addressed in this manner, Peace Education is placed in a natural context and the learning is connected in a meaningful way. Many educators agree, however, that to be effective, a systematic approach must be taken, as opposed to a one-day approach where lectures, skits, etc. might be presented.

FINDINGS:

Currently, the Department of Education has many supports in place to enhance character education. Among these are the Peer Education Program (PEP) which examines issues of teens and encourages peer mediation in areas like conflict resolution. The Hawaiian Studies *kupuna* program encourages students to practice values like *Ho`opono`pono* (healing process), *aloha* (respect and love for one another), *lokahi* (unity), and *malama* (taking care of self, environment and people). Physical Education, too, addresses Peace Education through the ideas of sportsmanship. The Hawaii Content and Performance Standards III (HCPS III) in Social Studies ensures that

students understand how to deal with ideas of power and authority in the elementary grades. In middle and high school, students critically examine the consequences of conflict, both at home and in the global society. In addition, the General Learner Outcomes (GLOs), embedded in all curricular areas, address Peace Education by defining what all students should know and care about.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Department of Education will continue to embed Peace Education in all curricular areas. The Department will make available a bibliography of online resources, both general and specific, for all grade levels (see attached). This list of resources includes the Matsunaga Institute for Peace at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. In addition to hosting a resource center that is open to all members of the community, schools may contact the Institute to request a speaker for their classes.

The Department of Education will distribute this list of online resources to all participants at the Social Studies Statewide Leadership Training Sessions held each spring and fall. It will also be placed on the DOE website. In addition, a memo from the Superintendent, alerting teachers to this resource, will be sent to all principals for their review.

Because of the above supports in place for Peace Education, the Department does not recommend a separate curriculum, and no further action is required by the legislature.

ONLINE RESOURCES

GENERAL:
Global, Community, Personal

Educators for Social Responsibility
Their Online Teacher Center provides teaching resources on a range of issues related to security, conflict resolution, peacemaking, violence prevention, and more.
High School:
http://www.esrnational.org/otc/view_lessons.php?action=grade&gradeid=22
Middle School:
http://www.esrnational.org/otc/view_lessons.php?action=grade&gradeid=23
Elementary School:
http://www.esrnational.org/otc/view_lessons.php?action=grade&gradeid=24

The Canadian Centres for Peace Education
Bibliography of resources for global, local community and individual levels.
http://www.peace.ca/info.htm

Pax Educare: The Connecticut Center for Peace Education
Links to organizations and resources at all levels.
http://www.paxeducare.org/Links.shtml

Spark M. Matsunaga Institute for Peace
Contains both a Conflict Resolution and a Peace Studies collection. It is open to all members of the community. Has a collection of books, journals, videos, subject files and newsletters. Speakers are available.
http://www.peaceinstitute.hawaii.edu/

SPECIFIC:
Global Issues

Peace Education Center, Teachers College, Columbia University
http://www.tc.edu/PeaceEd/index.html

United States Institute of Peace: Simulations and Teaching Guides
http://www.usip.org/class/index.html

United Nations Cyber School Bus
http://www.un.org/cyberschoolbus/peace/frame3.htm

Interpersonal & Community

Celebrating Peace
http://www.celebratingpeace.com/teachers.htm
(Elementary)

HIPP
(http://www.afsc.org/hipp/) the American Society of Friends, free downloadable
resources, suitable for high school social studies classes concerned with criminal
justice, war, and human rights.
http://www.afsc.org/resources/free.htm
(Secondary)

Institute for Peace and Justice Resources for Educators
http://www.ipj-ppj.org/educators.htm#middle

K-12 Conflict Management Teaching Resources
http://www.crinfo.org/action/search-portal.jsp?query=(primary+or+secondary+or+k-
12)+and+education+and+(teaching+or+material+or+tool+or+exercise)&db=crinfo_webr
esources&db=crinfo_organizations&result_type=search&link=/action/search-portal.jsp

Peace Education Foundation
PeaceWorks Curriculum is aligned with state educational standards for PK-12 using
Florida State Standards.
http://www.peace-ed.org/

Peaceful Schools International: Activity Resources
http://peacefulschoolsinternational.org/store.html

Responsive Classrooms: K-8 Activities
http://www.responsiveclassroom.org/bookstore/index.html

Teaching and Learning for Peace: K-12 Literacy/Literature Activities (Australian)
http://www.tlpeace.org.au/Peace-building%20Stories%20Activities%20Booklet.pdf

NOTE: The Peace Education Commission of the International Peace Research
Association maintains a listserv that allows peace educators at various levels (pre-
school, primary school, secondary school, higher education) as well as in on-formal
community education to communicate ideas.
If you would like to subscribe to this listserv, send a message to
listserv@uwm.edu
and in the body of the message write:
subscribe pec your name
Put nothing else in the message.
If you want to communicate with other peace educators from all around the world, send
a message to: *pec@uwm.edu*