



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR

July 11, 2007

The Honorable Colleen Hanabusa, President
and Members of the Senate
Twenty-Fourth State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 409
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Madam President and Members of the Senate:

Re: House Bill No. 598 HD 1 SD 1 CD1

On July 10, 2007, House Bill No. 598 entitled "A Bill for an Act Relating to Education" became law without my signature, pursuant to Section 16 of Article III of the State Constitution.

The purpose of this bill is to create the Online Learning Task Force, attached to the Department of Education, to develop a plan to expand online learning to students across the State. This bill appropriates \$50,000 in general funds in fiscal year 2007-2008 to the Department of Education for the work of the task force.

The intent of this legislation is laudable and the inclusion of programmatic measures of success is a constructive feature in this bill.

However, this bill appears to duplicate the existing efforts of the Hawaii Educational Networking Consortium (HENC). The HENC is a collaborative relationship between the Department of Education, University of Hawaii, East-West Center, and the Hawaii Association of Independent Schools. HENC's purpose is, "to develop, facilitate and promote the use of telecommunications technology in education and research in Hawai'i." It appears that HENC's purpose and membership are similar to that of the proposed task force and, as such, may be a duplication of effort.

For the foregoing reasons, I allowed House Bill No. 598 to become law as Act 275, effective July 10, 2007, without my signature.

Sincerely,

LINDA LINGLE