
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THAT THE AUDITOR CONDUCT A FISCAL AUDIT AND THE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION CONDUCT A PROGRAM AUDIT OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION'S HAWAIIAN STUDIES PROGRAM.

1 WHEREAS, a mandate from the 1978 Constitutional Convention
2 created the Department of Education's Hawaiian Studies program,
3 which is now implemented in all public elementary school grades
4 K-6 to help students develop an understanding and appreciation
5 of Hawaiian culture, history, language, values, and practices;
6 and

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8 WHEREAS, the program includes a component of kupuna, who
9 are elders or "grandparents" in a generational line with makua,
10 "parents," and keiki, "children," and who have expertise in
11 Hawaiian cultural heritage and assist classroom teachers in
12 Hawaiian studies instruction; and

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14 WHEREAS, in response to budget cuts, kupuna and makua
15 established the organization, Ka Lei Papahi o Kakuhihewa, which
16 is dedicated to maintaining the integrity of the Hawaiian
17 Studies program, and to ensuring that the program remains a
18 permanent part of the Department of Education curriculum; and

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20 WHEREAS, kupuna and makua spend a great deal of time
21 preparing lesson plans without the benefit of compensation or
22 reimbursement for classroom supplies purchased with personal
23 funds; and

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25 WHEREAS, many schools have stopped implementing the
26 Hawaiian Studies program for all K-6 grade levels, and the
27 program curriculum has become outdated and requires renewed
28 support from the Department of Education to maintain its
29 viability; and

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31 WHEREAS, the Legislature finds that a fiscal audit of the
32 Hawaiian Studies program would advance public knowledge of its



1 budget and spending, thereby increasing its transparency and
2 accountability; and
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4 WHEREAS, the use of "A" and "B" funds has not been
5 consistently implemented throughout the Hawaiian Studies
6 program, and there is evidence that some schools may be paying
7 kupuna and makua instructors at the education assistant rate,
8 rather than the part-time teacher rate, which could be as much
9 as fifty percent less than what they are rightfully entitled to;
10 and
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12 WHEREAS, Hawaiian Studies program kupuna play an essential
13 role in the perpetuation of native Hawaiian language and
14 culture; now, therefore,
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16 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-third
17 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2006, the
18 House of Representatives concurring, that the Auditor is
19 requested to conduct a fiscal audit of the Department of
20 Education's Hawaiian Studies program, specifically with regard
21 to its kupuna component, to clarify the numerous inconsistencies
22 in its budget and spending; and
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24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the audit shall include a
25 review of all moneys appropriated and expended for the program,
26 including "A" funds for salary and "B" funds for all other
27 expenditures; and
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29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is
30 requested to cooperate with and assist the Auditor in the
31 performance of this audit; and
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33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is
34 requested to conduct a program audit of the Hawaiian Studies
35 program to identify any areas of concern regarding its delivery
36 or implementation with specific regard to any inconsistencies in
37 kupuna assignment, and teaching schedules, and pay rates; and
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39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Auditor and the Department
40 of Education are requested to submit findings and
41 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the
42 Legislature regarding their respective audits no later than
43 twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of
44 2007; and



1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
2 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, the
3 Chairperson of the Board of Education, the Superintendent of
4 Education, and the Auditor.
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OFFERED BY:

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