

MAR 14 2006

SENATE 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27 program curriculum has become outdated and requires renewed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
33 budget and spending, thereby increasing its transparency and
34 accountability; and
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1 WHEREAS, the use of "A" and "B" funds has not been
2 consistently implemented throughout the Hawaiian Studies
3 program, and there is evidence that some schools may be paying
4 kupuna and makua instructors at the education assistant rate,
5 rather than the part-time teacher rate, which could be as much
6 as fifty percent less than what they are rightfully entitled to;
7 and

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9 WHEREAS, Hawaiian Studies program kupuna play an essential
10 role in the perpetuation of native Hawaiian language and
11 culture; now, therefore,

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13 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-third
14 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2006,
15 that the Auditor is requested to conduct a fiscal audit of the
16 Department of Education's Hawaiian Studies program, specifically
17 with regard to its kupuna component, to clarify the numerous
18 inconsistencies in its budget and spending; and

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20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the audit shall include a
21 review of all moneys appropriated and expended for the program,
22 including "A" funds for salary and "B" funds for all other
23 expenditures; and

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25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is
26 requested to cooperate with and assist the Auditor in the
27 performance of this audit; and

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29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is
30 requested to conduct a program audit of the Hawaiian Studies
31 program to identify any areas of concern regarding its delivery
32 or implementation with specific regard to any inconsistencies in
33 kupuna assignment, and teaching schedules, and pay rates; and

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35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Auditor and the Department
36 of Education are requested to submit findings and
37 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the
38 Legislature regarding their respective audits no later than
39 twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of
40 2007; and

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42 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
43 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, the Chairperson of



1 the Board of Education, the Superintendent of Education, and the
2 Auditor.

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