
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE AUDITOR TO CONDUCT A FINANCIAL, PROGRAM, AND
MANAGEMENT AUDIT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION'S HAWAIIAN
STUDIES PROGRAM.

1 WHEREAS, section 4, article X of the Constitution of the
2 State of Hawaii required the State to establish a Hawaiian
3 education program in all public schools; and
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5 WHEREAS, the Hawaiian studies programs in kindergarten
6 through sixth grade help students develop an understanding and
7 appreciation of Hawaiian culture, history, language, values, and
8 practices; and
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10 WHEREAS, Hawaiian studies programs include a component
11 called kupuna, who are elders or "grandparents" and makua,
12 "parents", who have expertise in Hawaiian cultural heritage and
13 assist classroom teachers in Hawaiian studies instruction; and
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15 WHEREAS, the program curriculum has become outdated and
16 requires renewed support from the Department of Education to
17 maintain its viability; and
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19 WHEREAS, in response to the outdated curriculum and budget
20 cuts, kupuna and makua have established the organization, Ka Lei
21 Papahi o Kakuhihewa, dedicated to maintaining the integrity of
22 Hawaiian studies programs and ensuring that Hawaiian studies
23 programs remain a permanent part of the Department of
24 Education's curriculum; and
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26 WHEREAS, kupuna and makua spend a great deal of time
27 preparing lesson plans for classes in Hawaiian studies programs
28 without receiving compensation or reimbursement for classroom
29 supplies purchased with their personal funds; and
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1 WHEREAS, despite the efforts by kupuna and makua, many
2 public elementary schools have terminated their Hawaiian studies
3 program; and
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5 WHEREAS, program closure is due in part to budget problems,
6 including the inconsistent use of "A" and "B" budget funds; and
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8 WHEREAS, there is evidence that some schools may be paying
9 kupuna and makua instructors at the educational assistant rate,
10 rather than the part-time teacher rate resulting in kupuna and
11 makua receiving as much as fifty per cent less than they are
12 rightfully entitled to; and
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14 WHEREAS, a financial and program audit of the Department of
15 Education's Hawaiian studies program would enhance public
16 awareness of the program's budget and spending, thereby
17 increasing transparency and accountability; now, therefore,
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19 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
20 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
21 Session of 2007, the Senate concurring, that the Auditor is
22 requested to conduct a financial audit of the Department of
23 Education's Hawaiian studies programs, specifically with regard
24 to kupuna, to clarify the numerous inconsistencies in budget and
25 spending; and
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27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Auditor is requested to
28 review all moneys appropriated and expended for Hawaiian studies
29 programs at both the Department of Education and individual
30 school levels, including "A" funds for salary and "B" funds for
31 all other expenditures; and
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33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is
34 requested to cooperate with and assist the Auditor in the
35 performance of this audit; and
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37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Auditor is requested to
38 conduct a program and management audit of Hawaiian studies
39 programs to identify any areas of concern regarding program
40 delivery or implementation with specific regard to any
41 inconsistencies in kupuna assignment, teaching schedules, and
42 pay rates; and
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Auditor is requested to
2 submit a report of any audit findings and recommendations
3 including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later
4 than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session
5 of 2008; and

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7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
8 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, the
9 Chairperson of the Board of Education, the Superintendent of
10 Education, and the Auditor.