
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I AND THE DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION TO DEVELOP, OFFER, AND EXPAND PHILIPPINE LANGUAGE
COURSES.

1 WHEREAS, Hawai'i has the fourth highest percentage of
2 immigrants in the country and forty-eight per cent of these
3 foreign-born residents are from the Philippines; and
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5 WHEREAS, nearly one out of every four Hawai'i residents is
6 of Filipino ancestry (part-Filipino and Filipino), consisting of
7 over a quarter of a million people; and
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9 WHEREAS, more than forty per cent of Filipinos living in
10 Hawai'i are under the age of twenty-five; and
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12 WHEREAS, Filipino students (twenty-one per cent) represent
13 the second largest ethnic group in K-12 public schools and are
14 the largest group in some schools (e.g. Farrington High School—
15 sixty per cent, Waipahu High School—sixty-three per cent, Lanai
16 High and Elementary—fifty-five per cent, Campbell High School—
17 forty-four per cent, Waiialua Elementary and High and
18 Intermediate—thirty-five per cent, and Kauai High School—thirty-
19 two per cent); and
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21 WHEREAS, only fifteen per cent of the Filipino population
22 twenty-five years of age and over has earned a bachelor's degree
23 or higher, Filipino students are underrepresented in higher
24 education in comparison to their numbers in the general
25 population and the public schools, placing Filipinos below all
26 other major ethnic groups in Hawai'i in terms of higher
27 education; and
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29 WHEREAS, Filipino students are underrepresented among the
30 student population at Windward Community College (six per cent),
31 University of Hawai'i at Hilo (five per cent), and University of
32 Hawai'i at Manoa (eight per cent); and



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2 WHEREAS, Filipino student representation is more
3 substantial on the following campuses: Hawai'i Community College
4 (thirteen per cent), Honolulu Community College (twenty-one per
5 cent), Kapiolani Community College (fourteen per cent), Kauai
6 Community College (twenty-three per cent), Leeward Community
7 College (twenty-six per cent), Maui Community College (eighteen
8 per cent), and the University of Hawai'i at West Oahu (fourteen
9 per cent); and

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11 WHEREAS, twenty-seven per cent of Hawai'i residents reported
12 speaking a language other than English at home and thirteen per
13 cent report they do not speak English at all or well; and

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15 WHEREAS, eight per cent of public school children are
16 enrolled in English as a Second Language, and of this group the
17 largest percentage speak a Philippine language as their native
18 language; and

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20 WHEREAS, the three major Philippine languages are Cebuano,
21 Ilokano (spoken by a majority of Filipino immigrants to Hawai'i,
22 and Filipino (the national language of the Philippines); and

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24 WHEREAS, a significant issue for Filipino students and the
25 Filipino community is the lack of curriculum offerings in
26 Philippine languages, as well as course offerings on Filipino-
27 American ethnic and Philippine studies; and

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29 WHEREAS, it is necessary to increase the number of
30 professionals trained in Philippine languages and cultures who
31 can work effectively in the areas of education, health, legal
32 services, and commerce; and

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34 WHEREAS, offering courses in the Philippine languages and
35 cultures in high schools and University of Hawai'i campuses will
36 increase academic engagement and student success; and

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38 WHEREAS, students who are most likely to experience
39 academic success are those whose home language and culture are
40 respected and used in the schools; and

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42 WHEREAS, successful language education programs are those
43 that acknowledge and honor home language use; and



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2 WHEREAS, providing these educational opportunities at the
3 various high schools and University of Hawai'i campuses is
4 consistent with the Department of Education and the University
5 of Hawai'i's goals and are also responsive to the needs of the
6 State; and

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8 WHEREAS, no public schools in Hawai'i, except for
9 Farrington High School with the assistance of the University of
10 Hawai'i at Manoa Gear Up program, has offered Ilokano and Samoan
11 language credit courses; and

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13 WHEREAS, only a couple of the community colleges offer
14 Philippine language classes, the University of Hawai'i at Manoa
15 has the largest number of students on any United States college
16 campus taking Ilokano (eighty-five students) and Filipino
17 language (two hundred twenty students) courses and is the only
18 institution in the nation that offers a bachelor of arts in the
19 languages and literature of the Philippines; and

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21 WHEREAS, Filipino community leaders and students have
22 expressed a strong interest in having Ilokano and Filipino
23 language courses taught on site and complemented by on-line
24 courses in the high schools and various University of Hawai'i
25 campuses; and

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27 WHEREAS, expertise is available at University of Hawai'i at
28 Manoa (Philippine Language and Literature program, Student
29 Equity, Excellence, and Diversity Office (SEED), College of
30 Education, and other units) to work collaboratively with other
31 University of Hawai'i campuses and public schools to develop and
32 offer Philippine language courses, Philippine studies courses,
33 Filipino-American ethnic studies and service learning
34 opportunities; now, therefore,

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36 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
37 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawai'i, Regular
38 Session of 2008, the Senate concurring, that the University of
39 Hawai'i at Manoa Philippine Language and Literature program and
40 Manoa SEED office work with other University of Hawai'i campuses
41 and the Department of Education to develop a plan to offer
42 Philippine language courses, related courses, and teacher
43 training workshops, including recommendations to implement these



1 courses in specific schools and University of Hawai'i campuses;
2 and
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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the University of Hawai'i at
5 Manoa prepare a report on a plan to develop, offer, or expand
6 Philippine language and related courses at the University of
7 Hawai'i campuses and public schools to the Legislature at least
8 twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of
9 2009; and
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11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
12 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to Chairperson of the Board
13 of Regents of the University of Hawai'i, the President of the
14 University of Hawai'i System, the Chancellor of each University
15 of Hawai'i campus, the Provost of each community college, the
16 Chairperson of the Board of Education, and the Superintendent of
17 Education.
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OFFERED BY:

	
	
	
	
	
	
	
	
	

