
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO ADOPT A POLICY FOR THE
INTEGRATION OF A PEDAGOGY OF ALOHA IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS FOR
IMPROVED LEARNING IN THE 21ST CENTURY.

1 WHEREAS, on September 13, 2007, the United Nations General
2 Assembly adopted the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of
3 Indigenous Peoples (Declaration), thereby establishing a
4 comprehensive framework for the promotion and protection of
5 indigenous peoples around the globe; and
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7 WHEREAS, Article 15 of the Declaration states that
8 "*indigenous peoples have the right to the dignity and diversity*
9 *of their cultures, traditions, histories and aspirations which*
10 *shall be appropriately reflected in education and public*
11 *information*" and that "*States shall take effective measures, in*
12 *consultation and cooperation with the indigenous peoples*
13 *concerned, to combat prejudice and eliminate discrimination and*
14 *to promote tolerance, understanding and good relations among*
15 *indigenous peoples and all other segments of society*"; and
16

17 WHEREAS, on April 23, 2009, Senate Concurrent Resolution
18 No. 147 was passed, urging the President of the United States
19 and United States Congress to adopt the Declaration, and cited
20 the need to "*preserve and maintain the Hawaiian culture, to*
21 *protect and promote the human rights of the kanaka maoli, the*
22 *indigenous people of Hawaii, and to support the efforts of the*
23 *kanaka maoli to pursue environmentally sustainable economic,*
24 *social, and educational activities to ensure the survival of*
25 *their culture*"; and
26

27 WHEREAS, pursuant to Article X, Section 4 of the Hawaii
28 Constitution, the State is responsible for providing for "a
29 Hawaiian education program consisting of language, culture, and
30 history in the public schools"; and



1 WHEREAS, the Board of Education (BOE) is charged with
2 integrating Hawaiian language, culture, and history into the
3 State's public school system; and
4

5 WHEREAS, pursuant to Act 51, Session Laws of Hawaii 2004,
6 the goal of which was to reform education in Hawaii, "education
7 must do no less than advance the endowment of human culture
8 itself, so that each succeeding generation finds itself further
9 along the road towards peace, social justice, and environmental
10 sustainability in a society guided by creativity, compassion,
11 and curiosity"; and
12

13 WHEREAS, the development of educational philosophies and
14 practices that embody indigenous pedagogical perspectives is
15 fundamental to empowering children to be effective, contributing
16 members of a globalized and culturally-diverse world; and
17

18 WHEREAS, the inclusion of native Hawaiian cultural
19 perspectives in the State's public school system is critical to
20 providing Hawaii's indigenous and non-indigenous students with a
21 dynamic and culturally-based education that fosters tolerance,
22 understanding, and mutual respect between people; and
23

24 WHEREAS, despite attempts by the Legislature to reform
25 education in Hawaii, the public school system continues to
26 follow mainstream, Western pedagogical paradigms at the expense
27 of including indigenous strategies of knowledge construction and
28 dissemination; and
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30 WHEREAS, a lack of safety, security, and practice of
31 Hawaiian values in Hawaii's public schools correlates directly
32 with the high dropout rates observed in schools around the
33 state; and
34

35 WHEREAS, schools that practice Hawaiian cultural values,
36 such as aloha -- the Hawaiian cultural principle of aloha that
37 entails the love of self, family, and the wider community -- are
38 less likely to encounter high incidences of assault, prejudice,
39 sexual abuse, and harassment; and
40

41 WHEREAS, the evolution of a pedagogy that is commensurate
42 with the cultural, social, and economic realities of Hawaii is
43 critical to the future of education in this state; and



1 WHEREAS, a pedagogy of aloha is grounded in the wisdom and
2 values of a native Hawaiian worldview and strives to create an
3 atmosphere of mutual trust, respect, and inclusiveness among
4 teachers, students, and students' families; and
5

6 WHEREAS, a pedagogy of aloha provides students with an
7 effective learning environment in which they feel nurtured,
8 safe, and encouraged to achieve the highest level of success in
9 everything they do; and
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11 WHEREAS, Nā Lei Na'auao (the Native Hawaiian Charter School
12 Alliance), which is made up of 12 Hawaiian-focused public
13 charter schools serving over 4,000 students from kindergarten to
14 grade 12 on three islands, has successfully integrated a
15 pedagogy of aloha for the past decade; and
16

17 WHEREAS, the implementation of a pedagogy of aloha by Nā
18 Lei Na'auao schools has resulted in increased student attendance
19 and graduation rates, and reduced dropout rates, which is in
20 stark contrast to other Department of Education schools; and
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22 WHEREAS, the entire education system in Hawaii will benefit
23 from the formation of an integrated pedagogy in which indigenous
24 knowledge interfaces with conventional educational practices;
25 now, therefore,
26

27 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
28 Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
29 of 2010, the Senate concurring, that BOE is requested to adopt a
30 policy for the integration of a pedagogy of aloha in public
31 schools for improved learning in the 21st century; and
32

33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature calls on BOE to
34 observe the "Decade of Aloha" by implementing appropriate
35 programs and activities that promote awareness of native
36 Hawaiian culture and encourage the practice of a pedagogy of
37 aloha in public schools statewide; and



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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 2 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor,
 3 Chairperson of the Board of Education, Superintendent of
 4 Education, Executive Director of the Charter School
 5 Administrative Office, President of the University of Hawaii,
 6 and the Mayor of each county.

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OFFERED BY:

~~Paul~~
~~Tom Brown~~

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