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



1 WHEREAS, the evolution of a pedagogy that is commensurate
2 with the cultural, social, and economic realities of Hawaii is
3 critical to the future of education in this state; and
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5 WHEREAS, a pedagogy of aloha is grounded in the wisdom and
6 values of a native Hawaiian worldview and strives to create an
7 atmosphere of mutual trust, respect, and inclusiveness among
8 teachers, students, and students' families; and
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10 WHEREAS, a pedagogy of aloha provides students with an
11 effective learning environment in which they feel nurtured,
12 safe, and encouraged to achieve the highest level of success in
13 everything they do; and
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15 WHEREAS, Nā Lei Na'auao (the Native Hawaiian Charter School
16 Alliance), which is made up of 12 Hawaiian-focused public
17 charter schools serving over 4,000 students from kindergarten to
18 grade 12 on three islands, has successfully integrated a
19 pedagogy of aloha for the past decade; and
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21 WHEREAS, the implementation of a pedagogy of aloha by Nā
22 Lei Na'auao schools has resulted in increased student attendance
23 and graduation rates, and reduced dropout rates, which is in
24 stark contrast to other Department of Education schools; and
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26 WHEREAS, the entire education system in Hawaii will benefit
27 from the formation of an integrated pedagogy in which indigenous
28 knowledge interfaces with conventional educational practices;
29 now, therefore,
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31 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
32 Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
33 of 2010, that BOE is requested to adopt a policy for the
34 integration of a pedagogy of aloha in public schools for
35 improved learning in the 21st century; and
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37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this body calls on BOE to
38 observe the "Decade of Aloha" by implementing appropriate
39 programs and activities that promote awareness of native
40 Hawaiian culture and encourage the practice of a pedagogy of
41 aloha in public schools statewide; and



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

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MAR 04 2010

