
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE BOARD OF REGENTS TO ESTABLISH A MASTER'S DEGREE PROGRAM IN ETHNIC STUDIES IN THE ETHNIC STUDIES DEPARTMENT AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MANOA.

1 WHEREAS, the Ethnic Studies Department at the University of
2 Hawaii at Manoa, which began in 1970 as an experimental two-year
3 program, observed its fortieth anniversary in 2010; and
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5 WHEREAS, the program became a department in 1995, offering
6 a bachelor's degree in ethnic studies; and
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8 WHEREAS, the ethnic studies faculty has made substantial
9 contributions to scholarship on native Hawaiians and other
10 island ethnic groups, as well as the society and culture of
11 Hawaii; and
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13 WHEREAS, the Ethnic Studies Department has achieved
14 national recognition for its research and publications on Asian
15 Americans and Pacific Islanders; and
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17 WHEREAS, the Ethnic Studies Department has attained an
18 international reputation for the work of its faculty in
19 increasing awareness of the ongoing devastating effects of
20 racial and ethnic conflicts and in opposing racism and
21 discrimination in all forms; and
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23 WHEREAS, the ethnic studies faculty maintains a research
24 and teaching philosophy that emphasizes praxis, the application
25 of scholarship to the complex issues of our local communities to
26 improve the quality of life for Hawaii's people; and
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28 WHEREAS, the ethnic studies faculty serve on graduate
29 thesis and dissertation committees in a variety of academic
30 departments at the University of Hawaii at Manoa; and
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32 WHEREAS, the Ethnic Studies Department emphasizes civic
33 engagement and service learning in its pedagogical philosophy,



1 which contributes to the building of leadership qualities in its
2 majors; and

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4 WHEREAS, the Ethnic Studies Department has a unique
5 curriculum, which provides students with interdisciplinary
6 analyses of social problems, issues, and policies that have an
7 impact on peoples who have been affected by racism and
8 discrimination on the basis of their ethnicity in national,
9 transnational, and global contexts, with a particular emphasis
10 in Hawaii, the Pacific, and the continental United States; and

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12 WHEREAS, it is critical to train students in ethnic studies
13 theories and methodologies at the graduate level to prepare them
14 to conduct research and studies about multi-ethnic, diverse
15 communities that can be critical to policy makers; and

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17 WHEREAS, the Ethnic Studies Department at the University of
18 Hawaii has had and continues to have numerous requests for a
19 master's program from University of Hawaii and mainland
20 students; now, therefore,

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22 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
23 Twenty-sixth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
24 of 2011, that the Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii
25 is requested to establish a master's degree program in ethnic
26 studies in the Ethnic Studies Department at the University of
27 Hawaii at Manoa; and

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29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Regents of the
30 University of Hawaii is requested to submit a status report on
31 the steps that it has taken ensure the establishment, by the
32 fall semester of 2013, of the master's degree program, to the
33 Legislature not later than twenty days prior to the convening of
34 the Regular Session of 2012; and

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36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
37 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of
38 Regents of the University of Hawaii, the President of the
39 University of Hawaii, the Chancellor of the University of Hawaii
40 at Manoa, the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs of the
41 University of Hawaii at Manoa, the Dean of the College of the
42 Social Sciences at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, and the



H.R. NO. 104

1 Chair of the Ethnic Studies Department at the University of
2 Hawaii at Manoa.

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OFFERED BY:

T. J. Baker

MAR 14 2011

