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# HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO INCLUDE, AS PART OF THE MINIMUM COURSE AND CREDIT REQUIREMENTS FOR PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION, A REQUIREMENT THAT ALL PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS OBTAIN CREDIT FOR THE EQUIVALENT OF ONE YEAR OF INSTRUCTION IN HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE.

1           WHEREAS, in the late 1800s, a law of the Republic of Hawaii  
2 required that the English language be used as the sole medium  
3 and basis for instruction in all public and private schools; and  
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5           WHEREAS, in accordance with the English-only law, the  
6 Hawaiian language was strictly forbidden at school and students  
7 who spoke Hawaiian were punished; and  
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9           WHEREAS, as a result of the suppression of the Hawaiian  
10 language, the opportunity to speak Hawaiian outside one's home  
11 diminished and the Hawaiian language neared extinction; and  
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13           WHEREAS, efforts to revive the Hawaiian language began in  
14 the 1970s; and  
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16           WHEREAS, after the 1978 constitutional convention, voters  
17 ratified several amendments to the state constitution relating  
18 to the Hawaiian language; and  
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20           WHEREAS, article XV, section 4 of the Constitution of the  
21 State of Hawaii recognizes Hawaiian as one of two official  
22 languages of the State; and  
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24           WHEREAS, article X, section 4 of the state constitution  
25 directs the State to promote the study of Hawaiian culture,  
26 history, and language, and requires that the State provide a  
27 Hawaiian education program in the public schools; and  
28



# H.C.R. NO. 176

1 WHEREAS, the recognition and preservation of the Hawaiian  
 2 language is important because the language is essential to the  
 3 preservation and perpetuation of the Hawaiian culture; and  
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5 WHEREAS, all public high school students should have the  
 6 opportunity to learn the Hawaiian language; and  
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8 WHEREAS, all public high school students in the State  
 9 should be required to demonstrate some proficiency in Hawaiian  
 10 language as a condition of graduation; now, therefore  
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12 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
 13 Twenty-sixth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
 14 of 2011, the Senate concurring, that the Board of Education is  
 15 urged to include, as part of the minimum course and credit  
 16 requirements for high school graduation, a requirement that all  
 17 high school students obtain credit for the equivalent of one  
 18 year of instruction in the Hawaiian language; and  
 19

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
 21 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to each member of the Board  
 22 of Education.  
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OFFERED BY:

*John M. ...*  
*[Signature]*

*Kele Carroll*  


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*Tom Brun*  
*[Signature]*  
*[Signature]*  
*[Signature]*  
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MAR 15 2011

