
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING A REVIEW OF THE STATE'S FUNDING FOR EXISTING ESL PROGRAMS AND HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE PROGRAMS OFFERED IN HAWAII AND ANY DISPARITIES IN FUNDING FOR THE STATE'S TWO OFFICIAL LANGUAGES.

1 WHEREAS, the Hawaiian language was once a thriving language
2 spoken and read by Native Hawaiians and foreigners alike; and
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4 WHEREAS, by the late twentieth century, however, the
5 Hawaiian language was pushed to the brink of extinction due to a
6 number of factors, including an 1896 law that banned the
7 speaking of the Hawaiian language in Hawaii schools; and
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9 WHEREAS, fortunately, the Hawaiian language was saved by
10 several historic initiatives, but fluent speakers are still in
11 the minority; and
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13 WHEREAS, the Hawaiian language is a critical component of
14 the heritage of the State of Hawaii, and the State has a solemn
15 obligation to perpetuate the Hawaiian language; and
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17 WHEREAS, the federal Native American Languages Act of 1990
18 recognizes the United States' responsibility to ensure the
19 survival of Native American languages and establishes the
20 nation's policy of encouraging and supporting the use of Native
21 American languages as a medium of instruction to help preserve
22 those languages; and
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24 WHEREAS, the Hawaii State Constitution recognizes the
25 Hawaiian language as one of the two official languages of the
26 State; and
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28 WHEREAS, numerous programs in the State receive funding to
29 promote English as a Second Language (ESL), but funding for
30 Hawaiian language immersion and other Hawaiian language programs
31 is far more limited; now, therefore,



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2 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
3 Twenty-sixth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
4 of 2012, the Senate concurring, that the University of Hawaii,
5 with the assistance of the Department of Education and other
6 educational organizations, as appropriate, is requested to
7 review the State's funding for existing ESL programs and
8 Hawaiian language programs offered in Hawaii and any disparities
9 in funding for the State's two official languages; and
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11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the University of Hawaii is
12 requested to report its findings and recommendations, including
13 projected costs to address any disparities in funding, to the
14 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
15 the Regular Session of 2013; and
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17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
18 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of the
19 University of Hawaii System and the Superintendent of Education.
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OFFERED BY:

Mele Carroll

MAR 14 2012

