
HOUSE RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO EXPLORE OPTIONS IN
PREVENTING LIKELIKE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FROM FUTURE CLOSURE.

1 WHEREAS, Likelike Elementary School is a public school
2 founded in 1922 to serve the Kalihi-Palama community where most
3 of the students come from either densely populated multiple
4 family apartments or government subsidized housing; and
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6 WHEREAS, Likelike Elementary School's motto is Dignity,
7 Pride, and Respect; and
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9 WHEREAS, Likelike Elementary School is named after Princess
10 Likelike, who was born Miriam Kekauluo'hi Likelike on January
11 13, 1851 and was the daughter of High Chief Kapaakea and the
12 Chiefess Keohokalo'le; and
13

14 WHEREAS, Princess Likelike was also the younger sister of
15 King Kalakaua and Princess Liliuokalani, who was to become
16 Hawaii's last reigning monarch, and was third in direct line of
17 succession to the Hawaiian throne and was the mother of Princess
18 Kaiulani; and
19

20 WHEREAS, fourth graders at Likelike Elementary School honor
21 their namesake, Princess Likelike, with their annual program put
22 on every January 13th, her birthday; and
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24 WHEREAS, Likelike Elementary School's administration,
25 faculty and staff are committed to creating a positive learning
26 environment; working to bring to the students the help needed to
27 learn, mature and grow mentally, emotionally and socially in a
28 dignified manner befitting a school named after royalty; and
29

30 WHEREAS, the students at Likelike Elementary School exhibit
31 the utmost pride in everything they do, remembering that respect
32 cannot be learned, purchased, acquired nor given, it is earned



1 through hard work, perseverance and having respect for others;
2 and
3

4 WHEREAS, there is a high concentration of immigrant and
5 single parent families whose children attend Likelike Elementary
6 School of which all know that education and learning is a life-
7 long commitment, a commitment many of them made when they
8 immigrated to Hawaii; and
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10 WHEREAS, the school community consists of multi-unit
11 apartments, government subsidized housing, residential homes and
12 small businesses creating a diverse socioeconomic and ethnic
13 population of families and students; and
14

15 WHEREAS, student ethnicity for the 2010-11 school year was
16 comprised of 15.6 percent Micronesian, 36.9 percent Filipino,
17 15.6 percent Native Hawaiian, and 5.3 percent Chinese with the
18 remaining population being a mixture of other ethnicities
19 representative of everything in Hawaii that makes our state a
20 melting pot of cultures; and
21

22 WHEREAS, the school's mission is to provide a well-rounded
23 educational program for all students in an effort to support its
24 families in helping their child get a good head start in their
25 education; and
26

27 WHEREAS, Likelike Elementary School continues to provide a
28 family literacy and preschool program funded through the Federal
29 Even Start program, and
30

31 WHEREAS, in addition to offering a plethora of programs to
32 support students in meeting their academic goals, Likelike
33 Elementary School participates in many of the State's and
34 Complex's initiatives that focus on preparing students to be
35 college and career ready, and currently boasts optimistic test
36 score increases such as nine and ten percent increases in
37 reading and mathematics respectively, from the school years
38 2009-2010 to 2010-2011; and
39

40 WHEREAS, the proposed alternative facility, Lanakila
41 Elementary, already utilizes all classrooms for intervention



1 classes and also partners with Head Start and other
2 organizations which use classrooms on a regular basis; and

3
4 WHEREAS, the English as Second Language Program (ESL)
5 program offered by Lanakila Elementary has also seen a surge
6 over the last two years, from about 40 to about 100 students,
7 mainly owing to our influx of Chinese immigrant families from
8 the Fu Xian province, and small student groups at Lanakila have
9 allowed for specialized interventions, precipitating a success
10 record unfeasible given larger student-resource ratios; and

11
12 WHEREAS, Princess Likelike died at the early age of 36 on
13 February 2, 1887, the Department of Education is urged not to
14 end her continued legacy in the lives of the students that have
15 graduated and those that currently attend Likelike Elementary
16 School with any foreseeable possible school closure; now,
17 therefore,

18
19 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
20 Twenty-sixth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
21 of 2012, that the Department of Education and the Board of
22 Education are urged to keep Likelike Elementary School safe from
23 future school closures; and

24
25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
26 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of
27 Education and the Superintendent of Education.

28
29 OFFERED BY:

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30 Education; School Closures

