
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO COMPLY IN FULL WITH THE FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE OFFICE OF THE AUDITOR'S MANAGEMENT AUDIT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION'S HAWAIIAN STUDIES PROGRAM.

1 WHEREAS, during the late 1960s and early 1970s, Hawai'i
2 experienced a grassroots movement to revitalize the native
3 Hawaiian culture, which also led to demands for Hawai'i-oriented
4 courses in Hawai'i's public schools and colleges; and
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6 WHEREAS, at the same time, proponents of the movement
7 acknowledged a risk of losing native knowledge of the Hawaiian
8 language, culture, and history permanently with many traditional
9 kupuna being of advanced age and rapidly dwindling in numbers;
10 which prompted the 1978 Constitutional Convention to propose a
11 Hawaiian Education Program that, upon approval by the voters,
12 became Article X, Section 4, of the Hawaii State Constitution;
13 and
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15 WHEREAS, Article X, Section 4, of the Hawaii State
16 Constitution states:
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18 "HAWAIIAN EDUCATION PROGRAM

19 Section 4. The State shall promote the study of
20 Hawaiian culture, history and language.
21

22 The State shall provide for a Hawaiian education
23 program consisting of language, culture and history in the
24 public schools. The use of community expertise shall be
25 encouraged as a suitable and essential means in furtherance
26 of the Hawaiian education program. (emphasis added); and
27

28 WHEREAS, the request primarily focused on the program's
29 kupuna component, which employs traditional kupuna (Hawaiian for
30 grandparent or elder) and individuals with knowledge of Hawaiian
31 language and culture to provide educational services to public
32 school children in grades K-6; specifically, the resolution
33 cited concerns relating to:



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- 2 (1) Funding, including allegations that moneys are
- 3 diverted to purposes not related to Hawaiian studies;
- 4
- 5 (2) Employment conditions of kupuna, including complaints
- 6 of inappropriate assignments and compensation
- 7 inconsistencies; and
- 8
- 9 (3) Leadership, oversight, and support, including outdated
- 10 curriculum and schools lacking the services of kupuna;
- 11 and
- 12

13 WHEREAS, the Hawaiian Studies Program is designed to serve
14 all students in grades K-12 and consists of kupuna and makua
15 who, through their teaching and leadership alongside regular
16 teachers, seek to preserve the native language, values, history,
17 and culture of Hawai'i with all students; and

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19 WHEREAS, program activities include support training for
20 regular classroom teachers to incorporate Hawaiian cultural and
21 historical content in a standards-based curriculum; and

22
23 WHEREAS, the Auditor previously issued two reports that
24 covered the Hawaiian Studies Program as part of larger reviews
25 of departmental programs: Budget Review and Analysis of the
26 Lower Education Program Report (No. 83-10), and Follow-Up Budget
27 Review and Analysis of the Lower Education Program (No. 84-13);

28
29 WHEREAS, in Report No. 83-10, issued three years after the
30 Hawaiian Studies Program's creation, the Auditor found that the
31 program design lacked comprehensiveness and the means to measure
32 its effect and recommended improvements to the program design;
33 and

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35 WHEREAS, the follow-up Report No. 84-13 a year later
36 reiterated criticism of the program's planning and evaluation
37 design; and

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39 WHEREAS, in Report No. 84-13, the Auditor noted that the
40 Department held the view that the classroom teacher should be
41 the cornerstone of the program and that Hawaiian concepts should
42 be totally merged into the existing elementary curriculum; and
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1 WHEREAS, Report No. 84-13 also noted that plans lacked
2 detail on how teachers would be trained to accomplish this goal
3 and the expected program effects; and
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5 WHEREAS, Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 74, S.D. 1,
6 Regular Session of 2007, requested the Auditor to conduct a
7 financial, program, and management audit of the Department of
8 Education's Hawaiian Studies Program; and
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10 WHEREAS, in response to Senate Concurrent Resolution
11 No. 74, S.D. 1 (2007), the Auditor filed Report No. 08-02,
12 Management Audit of the Department of Education's Hawaiian
13 Studies Program (January 2008), which reported the following:
14

15 (1) Absent clear guidance, a realistic implementation
16 plan, and desired outcomes, the kupuna component of
17 the Hawaiian Studies Program has receded from its
18 initial prominent position as the Department of
19 Education's primary response to the Hawaiian education
20 mandate to a far less pivotal role. In fact, some
21 policy-makers no longer see the component as essential
22 to the compliance effort. Absent the means to
23 objectively demonstrate the component's effectiveness,
24 the Department relegates kupuna services to school
25 principals without adequate guidance and oversight to
26 ensure that the funds used will produce the desired
27 outcomes. The Board of Education has been reluctant
28 to assume a leadership role in defining what a
29 Hawaiian education should include, which has been
30 critical of the Department's inability to account for
31 its achievements; and
32

33 (2) While relying on schools to administer the services of
34 kupuna, the Department has failed to provide the
35 oversight and support needed to ensure that the kupuna
36 services provide value for taxpayer funds. In
37 addition, the program administrator's appropriation
38 guidelines provide no directions for acceptable
39 equivalent alternative services for schools that do
40 not hire kupuna, resulting in funds being diverted for
41 unauthorized or questionable purposes; and
42

43 WHEREAS, the Management Audit of the Department of
44 Education's Hawaiian Studies Program cited the following as



1 major reasons for the slow deterioration of the Hawaiian Studies
2 K-6 Hawaiian Studies Program:

- 3
- 4 (1) The Board of Education and the Department of Education
5 have failed over twenty plus years to develop a viable
6 program with the necessary goals, objectives, and
7 evaluation components for the K-6 Hawaiian Studies
8 program with supportive curriculum and an evaluation
9 component to measure the desired outcomes of the
10 program;
- 11
- 12 (2) The Board further failed to delineate how the kupuna
13 program with its emphasis on kupuna knowledge and
14 expertise would bring about the desired outcomes for
15 learning the language, culture, and history for the
16 children;
- 17
- 18 (3) The Department of Education's failure to develop goals
19 or objectives for the program resulted in the
20 Department's inability to allocate the funds to the
21 program based on something measurable and concrete or
22 to conduct a meaningful evaluation of the kupuna
23 program and expenditures of kupuna monies;
- 24
- 25 (4) The Department failed to clearly delineate the role of
26 the classroom teacher vis-a-vis the kupuna; and
- 27
- 28 (5) The Department has allowed resources intended to
29 employ kupuna to be diverted to purposes with little
30 or no connection to a Hawaiian education. The audit
31 found that \$2,800,000 is provided to the schools to
32 hire kupuna. However, the funds are primarily spent
33 on operating expenditure, supplies, and capital items,
34 in direct violation with the Department's spending
35 guidelines; now, therefore,
- 36

37 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
38 Twenty-sixth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
39 of 2012, that the Board of Education and the Department of
40 Education are requested to:

- 41
- 42 (1) Allocate resources to develop the fundamental
43 requirements of a viable K-6 educational program with
44 stated goals, objectives, and evaluation measures,



1 including the completion, dissemination, and
2 implementation of a five-year Hawaiian studies
3 strategic plan;

4
5 (2) Update and revise the Hawaiian studies program and
6 curriculum guides for grades K-6;

7
8 (3) Monitor the fiscal responsibility of the use of
9 Hawaiian studies funds in the schools;

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11 (4) Make a clear statement of the role of kupuna and makua
12 as teachers of the Hawaiian culture and the role of
13 the regular classroom teacher as a true partner in the
14 endeavor;

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16 (5) Allocate substantive resources to further kupuna and
17 makua training and educational programs in all aspects
18 of Hawaiian culture so they can impart the knowledge
19 as envisioned by the Hawaii State Constitution for the
20 keiki (children) of Hawaii; and

21
22 (6) Provide an accounting of all expenditures relating to
23 the implementation of Article X, Section 4, of the
24 Hawaii State Constitution that establishes a Hawaiian
25 education program, and require accounting to be in
26 accordance with the recommendations of the Management
27 Audit of the Department of Education's Hawaiian
28 Studies Program; and

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30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education and
31 Department of Education report its progress on the items listed
32 above to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the
33 convening of the Regular Session of 2013; and

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35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
36 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of
37 Education, the Superintendent of Education, and the Chair of the
38 Board of Trustees of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs.

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41 OFFERED BY:

