

MAR 08 2012

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# SENATE CONCURRENT 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  
5

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  
14

15 WHEREAS, Article X, Section 4, of the Hawaii State  
16 Constitution states:

17  
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



1 language and culture to provide educational services to public  
2 school children in grades K-6; specifically, the resolution  
3 cited concerns relating to:

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- 5 (1) Funding, including allegations that moneys are  
6 diverted to purposes not related to Hawaiian studies;  
7
- 8 (2) Employment conditions of kupuna, including complaints  
9 of inappropriate assignments and compensation  
10 inconsistencies; and  
11
- 12 (3) Leadership, oversight, and support, including outdated  
13 curriculum and schools lacking the services of kupuna;  
14 and  
15

16 WHEREAS, the Hawaiian Studies Program is designed to serve  
17 all students in grades K-12 and consists of kupuna and makua  
18 who, through their teaching and leadership alongside regular  
19 teachers, seek to preserve the native language, values, history,  
20 and culture of Hawai'i with all students; and  
21

22 WHEREAS, program activities include support training for  
23 regular classroom teachers to incorporate Hawaiian cultural and  
24 historical content in a standards-based curriculum; and  
25

26 WHEREAS, the Auditor previously issued two reports that  
27 covered the Hawaiian Studies Program as part of larger reviews  
28 of departmental programs: Budget Review and Analysis of the  
29 Lower Education Program Report (No. 83-10), and Follow-Up Budget  
30 Review and Analysis of the Lower Education Program (No. 84-13);  
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32 WHEREAS, in Report No. 83-10, issued three years after the  
33 Hawaiian Studies Program's creation, the Auditor found that the  
34 program design lacked comprehensiveness and the means to measure  
35 its effect and recommended improvements to the program design;  
36 and  
37

38 WHEREAS, the follow-up Report No. 84-13 a year later  
39 reiterated criticism of the program's planning and evaluation  
40 design; and  
41

42 WHEREAS, in Report No. 84-13, the Auditor noted that the  
43 Department held the view that the classroom teacher should be



1 the cornerstone of the program and that Hawaiian concepts should  
2 be totally merged into the existing elementary curriculum; and  
3

4 WHEREAS, Report No. 84-13 also noted that plans lacked  
5 detail on how teachers would be trained to accomplish this goal  
6 and the expected program effects; and  
7

8 WHEREAS, Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 74, S.D. 1,  
9 Regular Session of 2007, requested the Auditor to conduct a  
10 financial, program, and management audit of the Department of  
11 Education's Hawaiian Studies Program; and  
12

13 WHEREAS, in response to Senate Concurrent Resolution  
14 No. 74, S.D. 1 (2007), the Auditor filed Report No. 08-02,  
15 Management Audit of the Department of Education's Hawaiian  
16 Studies Program (January 2008), which reported the following:  
17

18 (1) Absent clear guidance, a realistic implementation  
19 plan, and desired outcomes, the kupuna component of  
20 the Hawaiian Studies Program has receded from its  
21 initial prominent position as the Department of  
22 Education's primary response to the Hawaiian education  
23 mandate to a far less pivotal role. In fact, some  
24 policy-makers no longer see the component as essential  
25 to the compliance effort. Absent the means to  
26 objectively demonstrate the component's effectiveness,  
27 the Department relegates kupuna services to school  
28 principals without adequate guidance and oversight to  
29 ensure that the funds used will produce the desired  
30 outcomes. The Board of Education has been reluctant  
31 to assume a leadership role in defining what a  
32 Hawaiian education should include, which has been  
33 critical of the Department's inability to account for  
34 its achievements; and  
35

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



1  
2 WHEREAS, the Management Audit of the Department of  
3 Education's Hawaiian Studies Program cited the following as  
4 major reasons for the slow deterioration of the Hawaiian Studies  
5 K-6 Hawaiian Studies Program:

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

39  
40 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-sixth  
41 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2012, the  
42 House of Representatives concurring, that the Board of Education  
43 and the Department of Education are requested to:  
44



- 1 (1) Allocate resources to develop the fundamental  
2 requirements of a viable K-6 educational program with  
3 stated goals, objectives, and evaluation measures,  
4 including the completion, dissemination, and  
5 implementation of a five-year Hawaiian studies  
6 strategic plan;  
7
- 8 (2) Update and revise the Hawaiian studies program and  
9 curriculum guides for grades K-6;  
10
- 11 (3) Monitor the fiscal responsibility of the use of  
12 Hawaiian studies funds in the schools;  
13
- 14 (4) Make a clear statement of the role of kupuna and makua  
15 as teachers of the Hawaiian culture and the role of  
16 the regular classroom teacher as a true partner in the  
17 endeavor;  
18
- 19 (5) Allocate substantive resources to further kupuna and  
20 makua training and educational programs in all aspects  
21 of Hawaiian culture so they can impart the knowledge  
22 as envisioned by the Hawaii State Constitution for the  
23 keiki (children) of Hawaii; and  
24
- 25 (6) Provide an accounting of all expenditures relating to  
26 the implementation of Article X, Section 4, of the  
27 Hawaii State Constitution that establishes a Hawaiian  
28 education program, and require accounting to be in  
29 accordance with the recommendations of the Management  
30 Audit of the Department of Education's Hawaiian  
31 Studies Program; and  
32

33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education and  
34 Department of Education report its progress on the items listed  
35 above to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the  
36 convening of the Regular Session of 2013; and  
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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of Education, the Superintendent of Education, and the Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs.

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