

MAR 12 2012

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## SENATE 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  
3

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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33 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-sixth  
34 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2012,



1 that the University of Hawaii, with the assistance of the  
2 Department of Education and other educational organizations, as  
3 appropriate, is requested to review the State's funding for  
4 existing ESL programs and Hawaiian language programs offered in  
5 Hawaii and any disparities in funding for the State's two  
6 official languages; and

7  
8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the University of Hawaii is  
9 requested to report its findings and recommendations, including  
10 projected costs to address any disparities in funding, to the  
11 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of  
12 the Regular Session of 2013; and

13  
14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
15 Resolution be transmitted to the President of the University of  
16 Hawaii System and the Superintendent of Education.

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19 OFFERED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

