
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO EXPAND THE MANDARIN
CHINESE LANGUAGE CURRICULUM IN PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOLS.

1 WHEREAS, after decades of isolation, the People's Republic
2 of China emerged in the twenty-first century as a rising
3 economic power and reports predict that China's economy,
4 currently the world's second largest, is likely to pass the
5 United States in less than two decades; and

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7 WHEREAS, in an increasingly global economy, it is important
8 for today's children to be culturally sensitive and able to
9 converse in a language other than English; and

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11 WHEREAS, the significance of the Mandarin Chinese language
12 is reflected in the United States Department of Defense's
13 classification of Mandarin Chinese as a critical needs foreign
14 language; and

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16 WHEREAS, in 2006, the United States Department of Education
17 noted that more than two hundred million children in China were
18 taking compulsory English classes, in contrast to twenty-four
19 thousand of fifty-four million American elementary and secondary
20 school students who were studying Chinese; and

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22 WHEREAS, in response to China's growing economic global
23 dominance, teachers and parents throughout the United States
24 have acknowledged the importance of learning Mandarin Chinese,
25 and the last decade has seen an impressive growth nationwide in
26 Mandarin language classes that range from immersion classes for
27 kindergarteners to mandatory Mandarin language classes in some
28 cities; and

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30 WHEREAS, experts state that learning another language
31 enhances learning in other areas; and



1 WHEREAS, because of the structure of the Mandarin Chinese
2 language, with its tones and characters, educators have noted
3 that the students who study Mandarin Chinese use cognitive and
4 academic skills not addressed in studying most other foreign
5 languages; and

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7 WHEREAS, offering Mandarin Chinese language courses to
8 Hawaii's public school students will help them to become
9 successful global citizens; now, therefore,

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11 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
12 Twenty-seventh Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
13 Session of 2013, the Senate concurring, that the Department of
14 Education is requested to expand the Mandarin Chinese language
15 curriculum in public high schools to be available to students by
16 the 2015-2016 academic school year; and

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18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is
19 urged to cooperate with the University of Hawaii and the
20 University's Confucius Institute to expand Mandarin Chinese
21 language offerings in public high schools; and

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

