
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, AS PART OF ITS DEVELOPMENT OF A COMPREHENSIVE HAWAIIAN STUDIES PROGRAM, TO CREATE A COALITION TO ADDRESS THE ISSUE OF DEVELOPING ASSESSMENTS IN THE HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE FOR HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE IMMERSION STUDENTS TO MORE ACCURATELY MEASURE THEIR ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT.

1 WHEREAS, the Hawaiian language was once a thriving language
2 used by Native Hawaiians and foreigners alike; and
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4 WHEREAS, by the late twentieth century, the Hawaiian
5 language was pushed to the brink of extinction due to a number
6 of factors, including an 1896 law that functioned to ban the
7 speaking of the Hawaiian language in Hawaii's schools; and
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9 WHEREAS, the Hawaiian language was saved by several
10 historic initiatives, including the Department of Education's
11 Hawaiian language immersion program, which was launched in the
12 1980s; and
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14 WHEREAS, today, the Hawaiian language immersion program is
15 offered at twenty-one public schools and educates more than two
16 thousand students in kindergarten through the twelfth grade; and
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18 WHEREAS, the assessments required by the No Child Left
19 Behind Act of 2001 (No Child Left Behind) present a challenge
20 for the Hawaiian immersion program; and
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22 WHEREAS, because English is not formally introduced in the
23 Hawaiian immersion program classrooms until the fifth grade,
24 third and fourth graders take assessments in the Hawaiian
25 language to comply with the requirements of No Child Left
26 Behind; and
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1 WHEREAS, the Department of Education must provide the
2 students with an assessment system that more accurately measures
3 their academic achievement; and
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5 WHEREAS, this body is aware that the Board of Education is
6 currently reviewing issues regarding assessments as part of its
7 development of a comprehensive Hawaiian studies program within
8 Hawaii's public school system; and
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10 WHEREAS, this body is also aware that efforts are underway
11 to develop a request for a federal waiver from certain
12 requirements of No Child Left Behind to allow for the most
13 appropriate assessments and academic content standards for the
14 Hawaiian language immersion program; and
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16 WHEREAS, the Hawaiian language has a unique importance to
17 the State and is recognized under article XV, section 4, of the
18 Hawaii State Constitution as an official language of the State;
19 and
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21 WHEREAS, article X, section 4, of the Hawaii State
22 Constitution requires that the State promote the study of the
23 Hawaiian culture, history, and language and provide for a
24 Hawaiian education program consisting of language, culture, and
25 history in public schools; and
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27 WHEREAS, the Native American Languages Act of 1990
28 recognizes that the traditional languages of Native Americans
29 are an integral part of their cultures and identifies and form
30 the basic medium for the transmission, and thus survival, of
31 Native American cultures, literatures, histories, religions,
32 political institutions, and values; and
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34 WHEREAS, the Native American Languages Act of 1990 also
35 declares as a federal policy the encouragement and support for
36 the use of Native American languages as a medium of instruction;
37 now, therefore,
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39 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-seventh
40 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2013, the
41 House of Representatives concurring, that the Board of Education
42 is requested, as part of its development of a comprehensive
43 Hawaiian studies program, to create a coalition to address the
44 issue of developing assessments in the Hawaiian language for

1 Hawaiian language immersion students to more accurately measure
2 their academic achievement; and
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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the coalition created by the
5 Board of Education is requested to address the development of
6 grade-specific assessments in the Hawaiian language in language
7 arts, mathematics, and science to be administered to students in
8 the Hawaiian language immersion program; and
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10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the coalition include but not
11 be limited to representatives from:
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- 13 (1) 'Aha Pūnana Leo;
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- 15 (2) The University of Hawaii System;
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- 17 (3) The Office of Hawaiian Affairs;
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- 19 (4) Kamehameha Schools; and
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- 21 (5) Any other entity or organization the Board of
- 22 Education deems relevant; and
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24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this body strongly supports the
25 development of a request for a federal waiver from certain
26 requirements of No Child Left Behind to allow for the most
27 appropriate assessments and academic content standards for the
28 Hawaiian language immersion program; and
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30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States Department of
31 Education is urged to approve the Hawaii Department of
32 Education's request for a federal waiver from certain
33 requirements of No Child Left Behind to allow for the most
34 appropriate assessments and academic content standards for the
35 Hawaiian language immersion program; and
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37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education is
38 requested to report the findings and recommendations of the
39 coalition to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to
40 the convening of the Regular Session of 2014; provided that the
41 Board of Education is requested to include in its report:
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- 1 (1) A timeline for when specific grade levels will be able
- 2 to take assessments in language arts, mathematics, and
- 3 science in the Hawaiian language;
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- 5 (2) Any proposed legislation; and
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- 7 (3) Any requests for necessary funding; and
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9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
10 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the United States
11 Department of Education, Governor, Chairperson of the Board of
12 Education, Superintendent of Education, President of the
13 University of Hawaii System, 'Aha Pūnana Leo, Chief Executive
14 Officer of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, and Chief Executive
15 Officer of Kamehameha Schools.
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