

MAR 13 2013

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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGE THE USE OF THE HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE BY CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF FIVE BY DEVELOPING A PROGRAM TO IMPLEMENT THE REJUVENATION AND PROTECTION OF THE HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE AND PROMOTING FLUENCY IN PREKINDERGARTEN-AGED CHILDREN.

1 WHEREAS, studies indicate that children under the age of  
2 five who speak only Hawaiian are more likely to abandon using  
3 the Hawaiian language to speak only English when placed in an  
4 environment that is dominated by English-only speakers; and  
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6 WHEREAS, for example, young children who grow up speaking  
7 only Hawaiian at home and attend child care centers where only  
8 English is spoken tend to abandon using the Hawaiian language;  
9 and  
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11 WHEREAS, there are various Hawaiian language programs that  
12 protect the use of the Hawaiian language by children under the  
13 age of five by facilitating the use of the Hawaiian language in  
14 group child care centers and preschools and further encourage  
15 the use of the Hawaiian language at the homes and among the  
16 family members of these children; and  
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18 WHEREAS, these language nest programs facilitate Hawaiian  
19 speaking children to continue to speak Hawaiian before entering  
20 a Hawaiian language immersion kindergarten under the public  
21 school or charter school system; and  
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23 WHEREAS, current research shows that the best age for  
24 bilingual retention is between the ages of eleven and thirteen,  
25 but retention is best fortified by the introduction and practice  
26 of language in early childhood; and  
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28 WHEREAS, today, fluent Native Hawaiian speakers comprise  
29 approximately 0.1 percent of the state population; now,  
30 therefore,



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 2 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-seventh  
 3 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2013, the  
 4 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of  
 5 Education is urged to support and encourage the use of the  
 6 Hawaiian language by children under the age of five by  
 7 developing a program to implement the rejuvenation and  
 8 protection of the Hawaiian language and promoting fluency in  
 9 prekindergarten-aged children; and

10  
 11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is  
 12 requested to consult representatives from the following entities  
 13 to develop a Native Hawaiian language program for  
 14 prekindergarten-aged children:

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 16 (1) The Department of Human Services;  
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 18 (2) Hawaiian language immersion schools;  
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 20 (3) The University of Hawaii System;  
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 22 (4) The Office of Hawaiian Affairs;  
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 24 (5) Kamehameha Schools; and  
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 26 (6) Any other entity that the Superintendent of Education  
 27 deems necessary; and  
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29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education  
 30 submit a written report to the Legislature regarding its  
 31 findings and recommendations, including any proposed  
 32 legislation, no later than twenty days prior to the convening of  
 33 the Regular Session of 2014; and  
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35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
 36 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Superintendent of  
 37 Education, Chairperson of the Board of Education, Director of  
 38 Human Services, President of the University of Hawaii System,  
 39 Chief Executive Officer of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, and  
 40 Chief Executive Officer of Kamehameha Schools.  
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OFFERED BY: 

