
SENATE 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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28 WHEREAS, the Department of Education must provide the
29 students with an assessment system that more accurately measures
30 their academic achievement; and

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1 WHEREAS, this body is aware that the Board of Education is
2 currently reviewing issues regarding assessments as part of its
3 development of a comprehensive Hawaiian studies program within
4 Hawaii's public school system; and
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6 WHEREAS, this body is also aware that efforts are underway
7 to develop a request for a federal waiver from certain
8 requirements of No Child Left Behind to allow for the most
9 appropriate assessments and academic content standards for the
10 Hawaiian language immersion program; and
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12 WHEREAS, the Hawaiian language has a unique importance to
13 the State and is recognized under article XV, section 4, of the
14 Hawaii State Constitution as an official language of the State;
15 and
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17 WHEREAS, article X, section 4, of the Hawaii State
18 Constitution requires that the State promote the study of the
19 Hawaiian culture, history, and language and provide for a
20 Hawaiian education program consisting of language, culture, and
21 history in public schools; and
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23 WHEREAS, the Native American Languages Act of 1990
24 recognizes that the traditional languages of Native Americans
25 are an integral part of their cultures and identifies and form
26 the basic medium for the transmission, and thus survival, of
27 Native American cultures, literatures, histories, religions,
28 political institutions, and values; and
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30 WHEREAS, the Native American Languages Act of 1990 also
31 declares as a federal policy the encouragement and support for
32 the use of Native American languages as a medium of instruction;
33 now, therefore,
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35 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-seventh
36 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2013,
37 that the Board of Education is requested, as part of its
38 development of a comprehensive Hawaiian studies program, to
39 create a coalition to address the issue of developing
40 assessments in the Hawaiian language for Hawaiian language
41 immersion students to more accurately measure their academic
42 achievement; and
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the coalition created by the
2 Board of Education is requested to address the development of
3 grade-specific assessments in the Hawaiian language in language
4 arts, mathematics, and science to be administered to students in
5 the Hawaiian language immersion program; and

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7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the coalition include but not
8 be limited to representatives from:

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10 (1) 'Aha Pūnana Leo;
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12 (2) The University of Hawaii System;
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14 (3) The Office of Hawaiian Affairs;
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16 (4) Kamehameha Schools; and
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18 (5) Any other entity or organization the Board of
19 Education deems relevant; and
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21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this body strongly supports the
22 development of a request for a federal waiver from certain
23 requirements of No Child Left Behind to allow for the most
24 appropriate assessments and academic content standards for the
25 Hawaiian language immersion program; and

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27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States Department of
28 Education is urged to approve the Hawaii Department of
29 Education's request for a federal waiver from certain
30 requirements of No Child Left Behind to allow for the most
31 appropriate assessments and academic content standards for the
32 Hawaiian language immersion program; and

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34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education is
35 requested to report the findings and recommendations of the
36 coalition to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to
37 the convening of the Regular Session of 2014; provided that the
38 Board of Education is requested to include in its report:

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40 (1) A timeline for when specific grade levels will be able
41 to take assessments in language arts, mathematics, and
42 science in the Hawaiian language;
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1 (2) Any proposed legislation; and
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3 (3) Any requests for necessary funding; and
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5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
6 Resolution be transmitted to the United States Department of
7 Education, Governor, Chairperson of the Board of Education,
8 Superintendent of Education, President of the University of
9 Hawaii System, 'Aha Pūnana Leo, Chief Executive Officer of the
10 Office of Hawaiian Affairs, and Chief Executive Officer of
11 Kamehameha Schools.
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