

MAR 13 2013

SENATE 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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32 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-seventh
33 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2013,



1 that the Department of Education is urged to support and
 2 encourage the use of the Hawaiian language by children under the
 3 age of five by developing a program to implement the
 4 rejuvenation and protection of the Hawaiian language and
 5 promoting fluency in prekindergarten-aged children; and
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7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is
 8 requested to consult representatives from the following entities
 9 to develop a Native Hawaiian language program for
 10 prekindergarten-aged children:

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

