
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MANOA TO FUND AND FILL THE
VACANT AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES FACULTY TENURE LINE
POSITION AT THE COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES.

1 WHEREAS, African Americans have had a long historical
2 presence in Hawaii since the early nineteenth century; and

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4 WHEREAS, African Americans have made substantial and long-
5 lasting contributions to the State in many and varied fields,
6 including higher education, science, government, culture, the
7 arts, sports, and civic life; and

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9 WHEREAS, a number of African Americans with Hawaii ties are
10 historically significant, including Barack Obama, the first
11 African American President of the United States; and Alice Ball,
12 who, in 1915, became the first woman and the first African
13 American to earn a master's degree at the University of Hawaii,
14 and who successfully developed medicine from the Chaulmoogra
15 tree for Hansen's disease; and

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17 WHEREAS, students and community members should be able to
18 enroll in courses that cover the contributions of historically
19 significant African Americans of Hawaii, and have opportunities
20 to discuss serious historical and current issues of racism and
21 inequality that face African American students and communities;
22 and

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24 WHEREAS, since the 1970s, the Department of Ethnic Studies
25 at the University of Hawaii at Manoa has employed tenured
26 faculty who teach popular courses about the experiences of
27 Native Hawaiians, Caucasians, Chinese, Japanese, Filipinos and
28 African Americans; and



1 WHEREAS, the vacant African American Studies faculty tenure
2 line position was transferred out of the Department of Ethnic
3 Studies as a result of position sweeps and budget cuts; and
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5 WHEREAS, African Americans are underrepresented among the
6 students, faculty, and administrators at the College of Social
7 Sciences and other units at the University of Hawaii at Manoa;
8 and
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10 WHEREAS, students, faculty, alumni, and community leaders
11 have expressed deep concern to the Dean of the College Social
12 Sciences about the unfilled African American Studies faculty
13 tenure line position and the need for an institutional
14 environment that supports this hire; and
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16 WHEREAS, the Dean of the College of Social Sciences has
17 stated that the college "values the significance of African
18 American history and its impact in shaping both America and the
19 State of Hawaii", and has prioritized the funding and filling of
20 the vacant African American Studies faculty tenure line position
21 contingent on funding from the Chancellor; now, therefore,
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23 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
24 Twenty-eighth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
25 Session of 2016, the Senate concurring, that the University of
26 Hawaii at Manoa is urged to fund and fill the vacant African
27 American Studies faculty tenure line position at the College of
28 Social Sciences; and
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30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the University of Hawaii at
31 Manoa is requested to report to the Legislature on the status
32 and plans regarding the foregoing matter no later than twenty
33 days before the convening of the Regular Session of 2017; and
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35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
36 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of the
37 University of Hawaii and the President of the National
38 Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Honolulu
39 Branch; the former of whom is requested to transmit copies to
40 the Chancellor of the University of Hawaii at Manoa; the Dean of
41 the College of Social Sciences; the Ethnic Studies Student



H.C.R. NO. 131

1 Association at the University of Hawaii at Manoa; and the
2 Afrocentric Society at the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

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OFFERED BY:

Blair

Linda Lehman

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MAR 11 2016

