
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION'S OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN
EDUCATION TO CONDUCT A STUDY ON HOW TO PROVIDE ACCESS TO
INSTRUCTION IN THE HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE IN ALL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
STATEWIDE.

1 WHEREAS, the overthrow of the Hawaiian Kingdom in 1893 led
2 to a ban on teaching and learning through the medium of the
3 Hawaiian language beginning in 1896, thereby eradicating the
4 Hawaiian language from all formal education for the next four
5 generations; and

6
7 WHEREAS, at the turn of the century, native speakers of
8 Hawaiian amounted to under 0.1 per cent of the statewide
9 population leading linguists to worry about the fate of the
10 language going forward, even going so far as to ponder its
11 extinction; and

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13 WHEREAS, in the late 1960's and early 1970's, a resurgence
14 in cultural pride and identity led to significant increase in
15 the interest in and practice of Hawaiian culture, along with a
16 growing alarm that the Hawaiian language could be lost with the
17 passing of the few native speakers remaining; and

18
19 WHEREAS, the Hawaiian Studies Program, a K-12 program that
20 provides curriculum support and resources in the instruction and
21 learning of Hawaiian culture, history, and language, was
22 established by the Department of Education in 1980 to implement
23 the 1978 State Constitution's mandate to promote "the study of
24 Hawaiian culture, history and language" by providing a Hawaiian
25 education program and using community expertise "as a suitable
26 and essential means in furtherance of Hawaiian education;" and



1 WHEREAS, Hawaiian language instruction in Hawaii's public
2 schools has been limited in that it occurs only at select grade
3 levels and within specific subject areas, with the result that
4 the school system provides instruction in Spanish in more of
5 Hawaii's public schools than Hawaiian, despite Hawaiian being
6 one of the State's two official languages; and

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8 WHEREAS, recently, efforts such as the introduction of
9 Kaiapuni immersion schools and the Nā Hopena A'ō ("HĀ") policy
10 have been made to expand Hawaiian language education throughout
11 the State. However, implementation of the State's pledge within
12 the 1978 Constitution to promote "the study of Hawaiian culture,
13 history, and language" have been found lacking; and

14
15 WHEREAS, 'Ōlelo Hawai'i represents a keystone of our keiki's
16 understanding of these islands, their unique culture, and
17 heritage; now, therefore,

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19 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
20 Twenty-eighth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
21 Session of 2016, the Senate concurring, that the Department of
22 Education's Office of Hawaiian Education is requested to conduct
23 a study to determine:

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25 (1) How the teaching of Hawaiian language can be
26 restructured to best promote the expansion of K-12
27 Hawaiian language curriculum to serve the needs of the
28 State;
- 29
30 (2) How the expansion of Hawaiian language instruction
31 throughout the public school system in Hawai'i can best
32 be accomplished; and
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34 (3) Whether Hawaiian language instruction would be best
35 conducted through the Hawaiian Studies program or by
36 different means; and

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38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study should include
39 research on the following topics:



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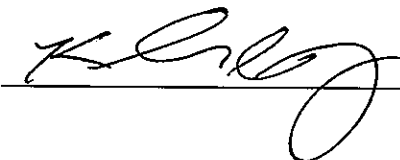
- 1 (1) The current structure and pedagogy of the Hawaiian
- 2 language courses offered in public schools throughout
- 3 the State;
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- 5 (2) What resources are necessary to provide access to
- 6 Hawaiian language study in all public schools
- 7 statewide;
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- 9 (3) Recent and current trends in student-driven
- 10 initiatives to learn Hawaiian; and
- 11
- 12 (4) Specific strategies to enhance and expedite Hawaiian
- 13 language instruction on different campuses throughout
- 14 the public school system in the State; and
- 15

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education's
 17 Office of Hawaiian Education is requested to submit a report of
 18 its study including findings, recommendations, and any proposed
 19 legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior
 20 to the commencement of the 2017 Regular Session; and

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22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 23 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Superintendent of
 24 Education, the Director of the Office of Hawaiian Education, the
 25 Administrator of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, Kamehameha
 26 Schools, The Chairperson of the Board of Education, 'Ahahui
 27 'Olelo Hawai'i, and the Head of the Association of Hawaiian Civic
 28 Clubs.

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OFFERED BY: 

MAR 11 2016

