HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

ENCOURAGING KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS TO CONSIDER THE PRACTICE OF LAND EXCHANGES TO FACILITATE THE DEVELOPMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOMESTEADS IN LOCATIONS THAT BETTER SERVE THE HAWAIIAN PEOPLE.

WHEREAS, the Legislature finds that the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands has over 27,000 applicants on the waiting list for homestead leases; and

WHEREAS, Native Hawaiians make up a significant portion of the homeless population in Hawaii and many of these individuals and families receive or are waiting to receive services from the State; and

WHEREAS, many Native Hawaiians choose not to apply for Hawaiian homestead leases because of the daunting size of the waiting lists, the slow rate at which people on the waiting lists receive leases, and the relative geographic isolation of the communities in which Hawaiian homestead leases are available; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands has been unable to significantly improve the housing rate for its beneficiaries in the past several decades; and

WHEREAS, twenty six per cent of the Native Hawaiian population are low income and twelve per cent are below the poverty level; and

WHEREAS, Native Hawaiians are over represented in high school drop-out rates, and only fifteen per cent of the population holds a bachelor's degree; and

 WHEREAS, Kamehameha Schools is the third-largest landholder in the State, behind only the state and federal governments in terms of total acreage held; and

WHEREAS, Kamehameha Schools' purpose is to create educational opportunities in perpetuity to improve the capability and well-being of people of Hawaiian ancestry; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Twenty-eighth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2016, the Senate concurring, that, in efforts to mitigate the struggles of Native Hawaiians, Kamehameha Schools is encouraged to pursue effective partnerships with community organizations and non-profits to support their educational and outreach efforts; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Kamehameha Schools and the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands are encouraged to partner with each other in any useful format outside of that which is defined in H.R. No. 21 or H.C.R. No. 54 of the Regular Session of 2016; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Kamehameha Schools is encouraged to review owned properties outside of the urban core that may be useful for development by the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands and consider land exchanges in pursuit of their mission; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Chair of the Hawaiian Homes Commission, Chief Executive Officer of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, Chief Executive Officer of Kamehameha Schools, and Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Kamehameha Schools.

OFFERED BY:

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