
HOUSE 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

12
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

27
28 WHEREAS, Hawaiian language instruction in Hawaii's public
29 schools has been limited in that it occurs only at select grade
30 levels and within specific subject areas, with the result that



1 the school system provides instruction in Spanish in more of
2 Hawaii's public schools than Hawaiian, despite Hawaiian being
3 one of the State's two official languages; and
4

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

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

16 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
17 Twenty-eighth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
18 Session of 2016, that the Department of Education's Office of
19 Hawaiian Education is requested to conduct a study to determine:
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- 21 (1) How the teaching of Hawaiian language can be
22 restructured to best promote the expansion of K-12
23 Hawaiian language curriculum to serve the needs of the
24 State;
25
- 26 (2) How the expansion of Hawaiian language instruction
27 throughout the public school system in Hawai'i can best
28 be accomplished; and
29
- 30 (3) Whether Hawaiian language instruction would be best
31 conducted through the Hawaiian Studies program or by
32 different means; and
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34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study should include
35 research on the following topics:
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- 37 (1) The current structure and pedagogy of the Hawaiian
38 language courses offered in public schools throughout
39 the State;



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

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

17
 18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 19 Resolution be transmitted to the Superintendent of Education,
 20 the Director of the Office of Hawaiian Education, the
 21 Administrator of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, Kamehameha
 22 Schools, The Chairperson of the Board of Education, 'Ahahui
 23 'Olelo Hawai'i, and the Head of the Association of Hawaiian Civic
 24 Clubs.

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