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## HOUSE 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  
3

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  
8

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  
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30           WHEREAS, the vacant African American Studies faculty tenure  
31 line position was transferred out of the Department of Ethnic  
32 Studies as a result of position sweeps and budget cuts; and



1  
2 WHEREAS, African Americans are underrepresented among the  
3 students, faculty, and administrators at the College of Social  
4 Sciences and other units at the University of Hawaii at Manoa;  
5 and

6  
7 WHEREAS, students, faculty, alumni, and community leaders  
8 have expressed deep concern to the Dean of the College Social  
9 Sciences about the unfilled African American Studies faculty  
10 tenure line position and the need for an institutional  
11 environment that supports this hire; and

12  
13 WHEREAS, the Dean of the College of Social Sciences has  
14 stated that the college "values the significance of African  
15 American history and its impact in shaping both America and the  
16 State of Hawaii", and has prioritized the funding and filling of  
17 the vacant African American Studies faculty tenure line position  
18 contingent on funding from the Chancellor; now, therefore,

19  
20 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
21 Twenty-eighth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
22 Session of 2016, that the University of Hawaii at Manoa is urged  
23 to fund and fill the vacant African American Studies faculty  
24 tenure line position at the College of Social Sciences; and

25  
26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the University of Hawaii at  
27 Manoa is requested to report to the Legislature on the status  
28 and plans regarding the foregoing matter no later than twenty  
29 days before the convening of the Regular Session of 2017; and

30  
31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
32 Resolution be transmitted to the President of the University of  
33 Hawaii and the President of the National Association for the  
34 Advancement of Colored People, Honolulu Branch; the former of  
35 whom is requested to transmit copies to the Chancellor of the  
36 University of Hawaii at Manoa; the Dean of the College of Social  
37 Sciences; the Ethnic Studies Student Association at the  
38 University of Hawaii at Manoa; and the Afrocentric Society at  
39 the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

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OFFERED BY:

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