
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING PRIVATE SCHOOLS IN HAWAI'I TO CONSIDER OFFERING OR
CONTINUE OFFERING HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE INSTRUCTION AS AN
OPTION OR AN ELECTIVE IN THEIR ACADEMIC CURRICULUM.

1 WHEREAS, approximately twenty-three public schools (grades
2 kindergarten through twelve), including six charter schools,
3 throughout the State offer Hawaiian language immersion (Kula
4 Kaiapuni); and

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6 WHEREAS, the private Hawaiian immersion preschool system,
7 'Aha Punana Leo, was established in 1983; and

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9 WHEREAS, 'Aha Kauleo for Papahana Kaiapuni Hawai'i, a
10 guidance/advisory council for the development and growth of
11 Hawaiian medium in schools, is under the Office of Hawaiian
12 Education in the Department of Education; and

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14 WHEREAS, of the one hundred seven private schools in
15 Hawai'i, there are sixty-nine on Oahu, sixteen on Maui, fourteen
16 on Hawai'i island, six on Kauai, and two on Moloka'i; there are
17 an additional two private colleges; and

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19 WHEREAS, some private schools in Hawai'i teach 'olelo
20 Hawai'i; and

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22 WHEREAS, a review of private school literature indicates
23 that although Hawaii Baptist Academy, Hawaii Pacific University,
24 Hawaii Preparatory Academy, 'Iolani School, Island Pacific
25 Academy, Kamehameha Schools, Kawaihāo Church School, Maryknoll,
26 Parker School, Punahou School, Sacred Hearts Academy, St.
27 Andrews Priory School, St. Joseph School, St. Louis School,
28 Seabury Hall, and Star of the Sea School are teaching Hawaiian,
29 most of the private schools do not; and



1 WHEREAS, Hawaiian is not considered a world language such
2 as Chinese, French, or Spanish, and is therefore not offered in
3 some private schools, but those same schools recognize the
4 importance of students to acquire an objective view of students'
5 native language, and to understand the language and cultures of
6 other people; and

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8 WHEREAS, it is commonly known that there are advantages to
9 being multilingual, that languages are easily learned as youth,
10 and that the cultures of peoples are learned through peoples'
11 language, including Hawaiian; and

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13 WHEREAS, throughout the modern history of Hawai'i there has
14 been controversy regarding which language, Hawaiian or English,
15 should have prominent use; however, since the 1978
16 Constitutional Convention, Hawaiian and English have been
17 recognized as official languages of Hawai'i; and

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19 WHEREAS, Hawaiian is the host culture of our islands and is
20 enjoyed by all; and

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22 WHEREAS, the State of Hawai'i retains the Hawaiian language
23 motto and anthem; and

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25 WHEREAS, there are many aids to learning Hawaiian, such as
26 Hawaiian-English (1957) and English-Hawaiian (1964) dictionaries
27 by Mary Kawena Pukui and Samuel H. Elbert; Ulukau, a Hawaiian
28 language digital library with searchable files in Hawaiian;
29 Apple Computer's Hawaiian language support that includes a
30 Hawaiian keyboard for iPhone and Google; Hawaiian language
31 columns in the daily newspaper; and translations of Hawaiian
32 language newspapers into English; and

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34 WHEREAS, the learning of Hawaiian language is robust at the
35 college level, as evidenced by thriving enrollment in the
36 Bachelor of Arts in Hawaiian Language program at the University
37 of Hawai'i since the 1970s, a Ph.D. award in Indigenous Language
38 and Cultural Revitalization at the University of Hawai'i since
39 2004, and accreditation by the World Indigenous Nations Higher
40 Education Consortium (WINHEC) of the Ka Haku 'Ula O Ke'elikolani
41 College of Hawaiian Language at the University of Hawai'i at
42 Hilo, all indicating that Hawaiian language studies are thriving
43 at the college level; and



1 WHEREAS, in 2013, the month of February was designated as
2 Mahina ‘Olelo Hawai‘i (‘Olelo Hawai‘i Month) through the enactment
3 of section 8-24, Hawaii Revised Statutes; now, therefore,
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5 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
6 Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
7 of 2017, the Senate concurring, that private schools in Hawai‘i
8 are urged to consider offering or continue offering Hawaiian
9 language instruction as an option or an elective in their
10 academic curriculum; and
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12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that private schools that do not
13 currently teach ‘olelo Hawai‘i are requested to take a survey of
14 parents and students to determine interest in learning the
15 language; and
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17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that private schools are requested
18 to look for ways to incorporate Hawaiian language into their
19 curriculum and instruction; and
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21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
22 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to ‘Aha Kauleo for Papahana
23 Kaiapuni Hawai‘i, Hawaii Association of Independent Schools and
24 other similar organizations that represent private schools, who
25 are requested to transmit a copy of this Concurrent Resolution
26 to each of their member schools; and to each private school in
27 the State that is not a member of an independent association or
28 organization.

