
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO ESTABLISH A TASK FORCE TO LOCATE POTENTIAL, VIABLE PROPERTIES ALONG THE WAI'ANAE COAST ON WHICH TO ESTABLISH A HAWAIIAN-LANGUAGE IMMERSION SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS FROM KINDERGARTEN TO GRADE 12.

1 WHEREAS, kupuna in the Nānākuli ahupua'a have been striving
2 to reestablish their children and grandchildren's cultural
3 identity through the Hawaiian language since the 1960s; and
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5 WHEREAS, despite the growth of Hawaiian-language immersion
6 schools in other areas of the state, the creation of a Hawaiian
7 studies curriculum within the Department of Education, and the
8 establishment of a Hawaiian studies program at the University of
9 Hawaii, the Nānākuli community continues to lack a Hawaiian-
10 language immersion school from kindergarten to grade 12; and
11

12 WHEREAS, the Nānākuli ahupua'a has been home to the highest
13 concentration of Hawaiians in the world for over 50 years, and
14 children from the Wai'anae Coast constitute a significant portion
15 of the student population at Hawaiian-language immersion schools
16 in other areas of the state; and
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18 WHEREAS, Pūnana Leo o Wai'anae serves students in pre-
19 kindergarten and kindergarten, while Ke Kula Kaiapuni 'o Nānākuli
20 serves students from kindergarten through grade six; and
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22 WHEREAS, however, Ke Kula Kaiapuni 'o Nānākuli has
23 experienced a decline in enrollment because parents prefer to
24 enroll their children in an immersion school that serves
25 students from kindergarten through grade 12; and
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27 WHEREAS, as a result, many students have transferred to
28 Hawaiian-language immersion schools in other school districts,
29 including Ke Kula Kaiapuni 'O Ānuenuē in the Honolulu School
30 District; and



1 WHEREAS, a high percentage of students who reside in the
2 Leeward School District are being transported via school bus to
3 immersion schools in other areas, which raises costs for both
4 parents and the Department of Education; now, therefore,
5

6 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
7 Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
8 of 2017, that the Department of Education is requested to
9 establish a task force to locate potential, viable properties
10 along the Wai'anae coast, with a preference for a location in
11 Mā'ili, on which to establish a Hawaiian-language immersion
12 school to educate students from kindergarten through grade 12;
13 and
14

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force should consist
16 of the following members:
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- 18 (1) The Superintendent of Education, or the
19 Superintendent's designee;
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- 21 (2) The Executive Director of the State Public Charter
22 School Commission, or the Executive Director's
23 designee;
24
- 25 (3) The Chairperson of the Hawaiian Homes Commission, or
26 the Chairperson's designee;
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- 28 (4) The Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural
29 Resources, or the Chairperson's designee;
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- 31 (5) The Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of the Office
32 of Hawaiian Affairs, or the Chairperson's designee;
33
- 34 (6) The Mayor of the City and County of Honolulu, or the
35 Mayor's designee; and
36
- 37 (7) Members representing the community and stakeholders;
38 and



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jon Smith", is written over a horizontal line.

MAR 10 2017

