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# HOUSE 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

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31           WHEREAS, Hawaiian is not considered a world language such  
32 as Chinese, French, or Spanish, and is therefore not offered in



1 some private schools, but those same schools recognize the  
2 importance of students to acquire an objective view of students'  
3 native language, and to understand the language and cultures of  
4 other people; and

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

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

16  
17 WHEREAS, Hawaiian is the host culture of our islands and is  
18 enjoyed by all; and

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20 WHEREAS, the State of Hawai'i retains the Hawaiian language  
21 motto and anthem; and

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

31  
32 WHEREAS, the learning of Hawaiian language is robust at the  
33 college level, as evidenced by thriving enrollment in the  
34 Bachelor of Arts in Hawaiian Language program at the University  
35 of Hawai'i since the 1970s, a Ph.D. award in Indigenous Language  
36 and Cultural Revitalization at the University of Hawai'i since  
37 2004, and accreditation by the World Indigenous Nations Higher  
38 Education Consortium (WINHEC) of the Ka Haku 'Ula O Ke'elikolani  
39 College of Hawaiian Language at the University of Hawai'i at



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

