

MAR 10 2017

SENATE CONCURRENT 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
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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,



1 including Ke Kula Kaiapuni 'O Ānuenuē in the Honolulu School
2 District; and

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

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

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18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force should consist
19 of the following members:

- 20
- 21 (1) The Superintendent of Education, or the
22 Superintendent's designee;
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 - 24 (2) The Executive Director of the State Public Charter
25 School Commission, or the Executive Director's
26 designee;
 - 27
 - 28 (3) The Chairperson of the Hawaiian Homes Commission, or
29 the Chairperson's designee;
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 - 31 (4) The Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural
32 Resources, or the Chairperson's designee;
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 - 34 (5) The Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of the Office
35 of Hawaiian Affairs, or the Chairperson's designee;
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 - 37 (6) The Mayor of the City and County of Honolulu, or the
38 Mayor's designee; and
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 - 40 (7) Members representing the community and stakeholders;
41 and



S.C.R. NO. 89

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Superintendent of
 2 Education, or the Superintendent's designee, should serve as the
 3 chairperson of the task force; and

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 5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that no member should be subject to
 6 Chapter 84, Hawaii Revised Statutes, solely because of that
 7 member's participation as a member of the task force; and

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 9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to
 10 submit a report of its findings and recommendations, including
 11 any proposed legislation, to the Legislature at least 30 days
 12 prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2019; and

13
 14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 15 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Superintendent of
 16 Education, Executive Director of the State Public Charter School
 17 Commission, Chairperson of the Hawaiian Homes Commission,
 18 Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of the Office of Hawaiian
 19 Affairs, and Mayor of the City and County of Honolulu.

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OFFERED BY:

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