

FEB 07 2017

SENATE RESOLUTION

URGING PRIVATE SCHOOLS IN HAWAII 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

5
6 WHEREAS, the private Hawaiian immersion preschool system,
7 'Aha Punana Leo, was established in 1983; and

8
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

13
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

18
19 WHEREAS, some private schools in Hawai'i teach 'olelo
20 Hawai'i; and

21
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

30
31 WHEREAS, Hawaiian is not considered a world language such
32 as Chinese, French, or Spanish, and is therefore not offered in
33 some private schools, but those same schools recognize the
34 importance of students to acquire an objective view of students'



1 native language, and to understand the language and cultures of
2 other people; and

3
4 WHEREAS, it is commonly known that there are advantages to
5 being multilingual, that languages are easily learned as youth,
6 and that the cultures of peoples are learned through peoples'
7 language, including Hawaiian; and

8
9 WHEREAS, throughout the modern history of Hawai'i there has
10 been controversy regarding which language, Hawaiian or English,
11 should have prominent use; however, since the 1978
12 Constitutional Convention, Hawaiian and English have been
13 recognized as official languages of Hawai'i; and

14
15 WHEREAS, Hawaiian is the host culture of our islands and is
16 enjoyed by all; and

17
18 WHEREAS, the State of Hawai'i retains the Hawaiian language
19 motto and anthem; and

20
21 WHEREAS, there are many aids to learning Hawaiian, such as
22 Hawaiian-English (1957) and English-Hawaiian (1964) dictionaries
23 by Mary Kawena Pukui and Samuel H. Elbert; Ulukau, a Hawaiian
24 language digital library with searchable files in Hawaiian;
25 Apple Computer's Hawaiian language support that includes a
26 Hawaiian keyboard for iPhone and Google; Hawaiian language
27 columns in the daily newspaper; and translations of Hawaiian
28 language newspapers into English; and

29
30 WHEREAS, the learning of Hawaiian language is robust at the
31 college level, as evidenced by thriving enrollment in the
32 Bachelor of Arts in Hawaiian Language program at the University
33 of Hawai'i since the 1970s, a Ph.D. award in Indigenous Language
34 and Cultural Revitalization at the University of Hawai'i since
35 2004, and accreditation by the World Indigenous Nations Higher
36 Education Consortium (WINHEC) of the Ka Haku 'Ula O Ke'elikelani
37 College of Hawaiian Language at the University of Hawai'i at
38 Hilo, all indicating that Hawaiian language studies are thriving
39 at the college level; and

40



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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,
 4

5 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-ninth
 6 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2017,
 7 that private schools in Hawai'i are urged to consider offering or
 8 continue offering Hawaiian language instruction as an option or
 9 an elective in their academic curriculum; and
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11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that private schools that do not
 12 currently teach 'olelo Hawai'i are requested to take a survey of
 13 parents and students to determine interest in learning the
 14 language; and
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16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education
 17 support the curriculum and instruction of 'olelo Hawai'i in
 18 private schools in Hawai'i that express interest in adding
 19 Hawaiian to their curriculum and instruction; and
 20

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that private schools are requested
 22 to look for ways to incorporate Hawaiian language into their
 23 curriculum and instruction; and
 24

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 26 Resolution be transmitted to 'Aha Kauleo for Papahana Kaiapuni
 27 Hawai'i, Hawaii Association of Independent Schools and other
 28 similar organizations that represent private schools, who are
 29 requested to transmit a copy of this Concurrent Resolution to
 30 each of their member schools; and to each private school in the
 31 State that is not a member of an independent association or
 32 organization.
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OFFERED BY:

[Handwritten signatures]
 Will Egan
 Daniel A. Haimi
 P. P. P.

