
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS, DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION,
AND COMMITTEE ON WEIGHTS TO COLLABORATE AND ALLOCATE OFFICE
OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS' FUNDS TO THE WEIGHTED STUDENT FORMULA
TO BENEFIT NATIVE HAWAIIAN STUDENTS IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

1 WHEREAS, according to an April 2017 report by the Office of
2 Hawaiian Affairs Research Division (OHA Report), Native
3 Hawaiians scoring disproportionately lower than non-Hawaiians on
4 standardized tests was documented as early as 1983; and
5

6 WHEREAS, Smarter Balanced Assessments (SBA), administered
7 at the end of each school year to Department of Education and
8 public charter school students in grades 3 to 8 and 11, indicate
9 that a smaller percentage of Native Hawaiian students than non-
10 Hawaiian students are proficient in both mathematics and English
11 language arts/literacy, and SBA test results for School Year
12 2015 indicate:
13

14 (1) 28.4 percent of Native Hawaiian students tested
15 proficient in math compared to 46.8 percent of non-
16 Hawaiian students, a difference of 18.4 percentage
17 points; and
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19 (2) 34.8 percent of Native Hawaiian students tested
20 proficient in reading compared to 54.3 percent of non-
21 Hawaiian students, a difference of 19.5 percentage
22 points; and
23

24 WHEREAS, the OHA Report states that studies suggest that
25 teacher impact is the most significant school factor
26 contributing to a student's success; however, the Hawaii State
27 Teachers Association indicates that Native Hawaiian public



1 school students are more likely to have inexperienced,
2 unqualified, and out-of-field teachers; and
3

4 WHEREAS, in School Year 2015, Native Hawaiian students
5 represented 26 percent of the total public school system K-12
6 student population; however, only 9.9 percent of classroom
7 teachers were Native Hawaiian; and
8

9 WHEREAS, a May 2007 Public Education Brief by Kamehameha
10 Schools Research & Evaluation Division recommended that
11 "providing resources and services through literacy enhancement
12 programs, tutorial assistance, and mentoring and tutoring
13 programs, can begin to offset the economic disadvantages that
14 many Hawaiian children face"; and
15

16 WHEREAS, appropriating and allocating greater resources to
17 Hawaii's public schools will enhance student learning and the
18 educational outcomes of Native Hawaiian students; and
19

20 WHEREAS, under the Weighted Student Formula, additional
21 money is given to educate students with identified
22 characteristics that impact student learning and achievement,
23 such as student characteristics for Gifted & Talented,
24 Economically Disadvantaged, Limited English Proficiency, and
25 Transiency; however, the Weighted Student Formula does not
26 include a student characteristic for Native Hawaiian students;
27 and
28

29 WHEREAS, having a Weighted Student Formula student
30 characteristic for Native Hawaiian students will provide
31 additional necessary supports and resources for the education of
32 Native Hawaiian students; and
33

34 WHEREAS, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs has focused its
35 efforts on significantly raising the number of Native Hawaiian
36 students who at least meet achievement standards in middle
37 school as well as high school, and increasing the number of
38 Native Hawaiian students who graduate from post-secondary
39 institutions by 12 percent; and



1 WHEREAS, to meet these goals, the Office of Hawaiian
 2 Affairs has allocated funds toward college tuition scholarships
 3 and Native Hawaiian charter schools; and
 4

5 WHEREAS, the allocation of Office of Hawaiian Affairs funds
 6 to support Native Hawaiian students in public schools through
 7 the Weighted Student Formula will improve student achievement
 8 and outcomes for Native Hawaiian students and strengthen the
 9 services and programs provided to these students at the schools
 10 they attend; now, therefore,
 11

12 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
 13 Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
 14 of 2018, the Senate concurring, that the Office of Hawaiian
 15 Affairs, Department of Education, and Committee on Weights are
 16 urged to collaborate and allocate Office of Hawaiian Affairs'
 17 funds to the Weighted Student Formula to benefit Native Hawaiian
 18 students in public schools; and
 19

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 21 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the
 22 Board of Education, the Superintendent, the Chairperson of the
 23 Office of Hawaiian Affairs Board of Trustees, and the
 24 Chairperson of the Committee on Weights.
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