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HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

ENCOURAGING KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS TO CONSIDER THE PRACTICE OF LAND EXCHANGES TO FACILITATE THE DEVELOPMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOMESTEADS IN LOCATIONS THAT BETTER SERVE THE HAWAIIAN PEOPLE.

WHEREAS, Native Hawaiians make up over 30 percent of the homeless population in Hawaii and many of these individuals and families receive or are waiting to receive services from the State; and

WHEREAS, the median household income of Native Hawaiians consistently ranks below the state average, leaving over 15 percent of Native Hawaiians below the poverty level; and

WHEREAS, Native Hawaiians are over represented in high school drop-out rates, and only 11 percent of the population holds a bachelor's degree; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands only has awarded approximately 9,700 homestead leases since the creation of this department nearly 100 years ago;

WHEREAS, the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands has not significantly improved the housing rate for its beneficiaries in the past several decades due to factors like unreliable funding and competing needs; and

WHEREAS, many Native Hawaiians choose not to apply for Hawaiian homestead leases because of the daunting size of the waiting lists, the slow rate at which people on the waiting lists receive leases, and the relative geographic isolation of the communities in which Hawaiian homestead leases are available; and

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WHEREAS, the Legislature finds that there are over 34,000 potential applicants for homestead leases, in addition to the 27,000-plus applicants on the waiting list;

WHEREAS, Kamehameha Schools is Hawaii's largest private landowner, making it the third-largest landholder in the state, behind only the state and federal governments in terms of total acreage held; and

 WHEREAS, Kamehameha Schools' purpose is to create educational opportunities in perpetuity to improve the capability and well-being of people of Hawaiian ancestry; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Thirtieth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2019, the Senate concurring, in efforts to mitigate the struggles of Native Hawaiians, that Kamehameha Schools is encouraged to pursue effective partnerships with community organizations and non-profits to support their educational and outreach efforts; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Kamehameha Schools and the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands are encouraged to partner with each other in any useful format outside of H.R. No. 21, adopted in 2016; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Kamehameha Schools is encouraged to review owned properties outside of the urban core that may be useful for development by the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands and consider land exchanges in pursuit of their mission; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, the Chair of the Hawaiian Homes Commission, the Chief Executive Officer of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, the Chief Executive Officer of Kamehameha Schools, and the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Kamehameha Schools.

H.C.R. NO. 220

OFFERED BY:

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