
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO INCREASE FAMILY ENGAGEMENT
IN MICRONESIAN COMMUNITIES.

1 WHEREAS, upon arrival in Hawaii, Micronesian families lack
2 orientation to English language, laws, and customs, and are
3 unfamiliar with American academic culture; and
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5 WHEREAS, according to a 2015 report from Civil Beat,
6 Micronesian students are four times more likely than Japanese
7 students and twice as likely as Caucasian and Filipino students
8 to be suspended; and
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10 WHEREAS, according to Activating Educators Focus on Family
11 Engagement as Central to Teaching (AFFECT), a partnership
12 between the University of Hawaii and Hawaii State Teachers
13 Association, Micronesian parents are generally surprised when
14 encountering the expectations of the American education system;
15 and
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17 WHEREAS, according to the global strategic consultancy firm
18 PASS, LLC, Micronesians make up the largest percentage of
19 students designated as chronically absent in Hawaii's school
20 system, with the rate of absenteeism increasing to thirty-three
21 percent for the 2015-2016 school year; and
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23 WHEREAS, according to PASS, LLC, lack of parental
24 engagement is a strong contributor to chronic absenteeism; and
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26 WHEREAS, according to an article published in the Journal
27 of Pacific Rim Psychology by researchers at the University of
28 Hawaii, language barriers adversely impact students and parents,
29 making them feel inadequate in comparison to individuals who
30 possess a higher level of English language proficiency; and



1 WHEREAS, according to the National Coalition for Parent
2 Involvement in Education, students with engaged parents are more
3 likely to have higher grades and test scores, attend school
4 regularly, have better social skills, show improved behavior,
5 and adapt well to school; and

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7 WHEREAS, administrators, teachers, and school staff in
8 Hawaii's public school system often lack knowledge about the
9 Micronesian culture and do not have adequate resources to help
10 Micronesian families; and

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12 WHEREAS, according to the University of Central Florida,
13 schools often misunderstand parental behavior, resulting in an
14 oversimplification of the complexities surrounding immigrant
15 parental involvement in education systems built largely on
16 European-American values, beliefs, and traditions; and

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18 WHEREAS, family engagement is a component of goal three of
19 the Department of Education's strategic plan, which relates to
20 successful systems of support and makes partnerships with
21 families and communities a priority to strengthen parental bonds
22 with schools and improve communication, engagement, and
23 understanding with school stakeholders, including families; now,
24 therefore,

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26 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
27 Thirtieth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of
28 2020, the Senate concurring, that the Department of Education is
29 urged to increase family engagement in Micronesian communities;
30 and

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32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is
33 requested to perform outreach to Micronesian families to help
34 parents of Micronesian families understand Hawaii's education
35 system and identify challenges to improving the educational
36 performance of Micronesian children, including barriers to
37 accessing wraparound services for Micronesian students; and

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39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is
40 requested to partner with the Pacific Resources for Education
41 and Learning and AFFECT in developing programs that advance
42 family engagement in Micronesian communities; and



1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 2 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Lieutenant
 3 Governor, Chairperson of the Board of Education, Superintendent
 4 of Education, Chief Executive Officer of Pacific Resources for
 5 Education and Learning, and team leaders for Activating
 6 Educators Focus on Family Engagement as Central to Teaching.

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OFFERED BY:

Amy Pennico

Suzanne

Dave Carnas

Pat Lamb

Blair

James King

Tim Winger

Chris

Della Akelitti

Jefferson

Rich Adams-Hakawa

John M. [unclear]

Jerardo [unclear]

[unclear]

Guthrie Thielon

Del Ht

Nurse E. [unclear]

Linda [unclear]

Chris

[unclear]

[unclear]

Bob McDevitt
Lyn DeLoe

