
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT
UNDERGRADUATE TEACHER EDUCATION DEGREE PROGRAMS ON EACH
NEIGHBOR ISLAND.

1 WHEREAS, there is a statewide shortage of certified
2 instructors to adequately serve the educational needs of
3 Hawaii's K-12 public school students; and
4

5 WHEREAS, five hundred eight emergency hires taught public
6 school students during the 2018-2019 school year, but there were
7 five hundred twenty-one additional vacancies that remained
8 unfilled, reflecting a vacuum in licensed educators; and
9

10 WHEREAS, the number of Hawaii education program graduates
11 has declined sharply within the past decade, falling from five
12 hundred forty-four in the 2012-2013 academic year to three
13 hundred eighty in the 2017-2018 academic year; and
14

15 WHEREAS, Hawaii has demonstrated worsening teacher
16 retention rates, with the number of teachers leaving Hawaii
17 increasing by over seventy percent since 2012; and
18

19 WHEREAS, neighbor island school complexes exhibit some of
20 the highest percentages of emergency hires and vacancies,
21 including thirty-five percent of teachers in Lanai, nineteen
22 percent of teachers in Hana, and fifteen percent of teachers in
23 Molokai; and
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25 WHEREAS, Hawaii State Approved Teacher Education Programs
26 offering undergraduate degrees have not yet been established on
27 any of the neighbor islands; and
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29 WHEREAS, offering undergraduate teaching degrees on all the
30 neighbor islands will provide neighbor island students with



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1 equal access to pursuing degrees in teacher education and
2 serving the unique educational needs of their communities; now,
3 therefore,
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5 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
6 Thirtieth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of
7 2020, the Senate concurring, that the University of Hawaii is
8 urged to develop and implement undergraduate teacher education
9 degree programs on each neighbor island; and
10

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in formulating neighbor island
12 undergraduate teaching degrees, the University of Hawaii is
13 urged to:
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- 15 (1) Gather data from the current population of K-12 public
16 school teachers on the neighbor islands to assess
17 subject area needs and capabilities;
18
- 19 (2) Establish relationships with the neighbor island
20 complex areas to develop teacher education pathways
21 for high school students to enroll in undergraduate
22 teacher education programs; and
23
- 24 (3) Expand distance learning opportunities to bolster
25 teacher education opportunities on the neighbor
26 islands; and
27

28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
29 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson and
30 Members of the Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii,
31 President of the University of Hawaii System, Chairperson and
32 Members of the Board of Education, and Superintendent of
33 Education.
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OFFERED BY:

[Handwritten signatures and names]

Mya A. Akaka
Ch. Todd
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MAR 05 2020

