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# HOUSE 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  
24

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  
28

29           WHEREAS, offering undergraduate teaching degrees on all the  
30 neighbor islands will provide neighbor island students with  
31 equal access to pursuing degrees in teacher education and



1 serving the unique educational needs of their communities; now,  
2 therefore,

3  
4 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
5 Thirtieth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of  
6 2020, that the University of Hawaii is urged to develop and  
7 implement undergraduate teacher education degree programs on  
8 each neighbor island; and

9  
10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in formulating neighbor island  
11 undergraduate teaching degrees, the University of Hawaii is  
12 urged to:

- 13 (1) Gather data from the current population of K-12 public  
14 school teachers on the neighbor islands to assess  
15 subject area needs and capabilities;
- 16  
17 (2) Establish relationships with the neighbor island  
18 complex areas to develop teacher education pathways  
19 for high school students to enroll in undergraduate  
20 teacher education programs; and
- 21  
22 (3) Expand distance learning opportunities to bolster  
23 teacher education opportunities on the neighbor  
24 islands; and  
25

26  
27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
28 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson and Members of the  
29 Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii, President of the  
30 University of Hawaii System, Chairperson and Members of the  
31 Board of Education, and Superintendent of Education.

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OFFERED BY:

My n. Akela

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