

MAR - 6 2020

SENATE 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
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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
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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
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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
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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 Senate of the Thirtieth Legislature
5 of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2020, that the
6 University of Hawaii is urged to develop and implement
7 undergraduate teacher education degree programs on each neighbor
8 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
- 14 (1) Gather data from the current population of K-12 public
- 15 school teachers on the neighbor islands to assess
- 16 subject area needs and capabilities;
- 17
- 18 (2) Establish relationships with the neighbor island
- 19 complex areas to develop teacher education pathways
- 20 for high school students to enroll in undergraduate
- 21 teacher education programs; and
- 22
- 23 (3) Expand distance learning opportunities to bolster
- 24 teacher education opportunities on the neighbor
- 25 islands; and
- 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:

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S.R. NO. 74



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