

MAR 10 2023

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO
INTEGRATE THE DOCUMENTARY FILM "WATERMAN" INTO MIDDLE AND
INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL CURRICULUM.

1 WHEREAS, the people of Hawaii descend from a long and
2 storied path of heroes who embody strength, courage, integrity,
3 determination, and humility; and
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5 WHEREAS, many of these heroes in the stories of old Hawaii
6 survived tremendous trials by adhering to long-held values of
7 aloha, perseverance, and teamwork; and
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9 WHEREAS, the youth of today have become increasingly
10 unfamiliar with these lessons as they drift farther from the
11 ancient stories and traditional storylines of what qualities
12 enhance the intrinsic values of ohana (family) and hard work,
13 upon both of which they should model their behavior; and
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15 WHEREAS, youth in Hawaii have been inundated with modern
16 distractions such as social media, smartphones, and drug use,
17 and these distractions affect their physical and mental health,
18 causing a shift in whom they idolize and admire; and
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20 WHEREAS, behavioralists and mental health therapists
21 recognize that in their most impressionable ages, children often
22 model their goals and behaviors after those they most admire;
23 and
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25 WHEREAS, a contemporary Hawaiian legend, Duke Paoa Kahinu
26 Mokoe Hulikohola Kahanamoku, who was a five-time Olympic
27 medalist in swimming, a pioneer in surfing, and the true
28 Hawaiian ambassador of aloha was also a role model from which
29 children should derive value; and
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31 WHEREAS, an extremely engaging documentary film entitled
32 "Waterman" highlights the life, times, and challenges of Duke
33 Kahanamoku as a young Native Hawaiian immersed in the western
34 world while faithfully retaining his qualities of aloha; and
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1 WHEREAS, "Waterman" was recently showcased to an audience
2 of legislators, community leaders, and school officials in hopes
3 that they could recognize the intrinsic value of the documentary
4 in shaping the perspectives, values, and goals of children; and
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6 WHEREAS, "Waterman" was received with an overwhelmingly
7 positive response and it was determined that the movie's
8 efficacy to affect positive change might best be impactful in
9 the years encompassing middle and intermediate school; and
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11 WHEREAS, it was also a unanimous decision that to create
12 the greatest positive impact on children, middle and
13 intermediate students should watch "Waterman" in a movie
14 theater, creating an experience that the students will never
15 forget; and
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17 WHEREAS, producers David Ulich and Dr. Steven Ungerleider
18 of Sidewinder Films have agreed to allow free access to
19 "Waterman" in hopes that it could be broadly integrated into the
20 middle and intermediate school curriculum and shown
21 comprehensively to students as a coordinated effort to improve
22 the local self-perception, self-esteem, self-worth, and self-
23 respect of children throughout Hawaii; now therefore,
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25 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second
26 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2023,
27 that the Board of Education and Department of Education are
28 urged to integrate into the middle and intermediate school
29 curriculum a component that involves the "Waterman" film to help
30 provide a strong role model for a population of children who
31 have so few heroes to embrace; and
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33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is
34 urged to closely coordinate with the necessary agencies and
35 stakeholders to provide participating students with
36 transportation to movie theaters to bring middle and
37 intermediate school students together to experience the film;
38 and



1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
2 Resolution be transmitted to the Superintendent of Education and
3 the Chairperson of the Board of Education.
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OFFERED BY: _____

