
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES' OFFICE OF YOUTH SERVICES AND JUVENILE JUSTICE STATE ADVISORY COUNCIL TO EXAMINE THE AVAILABILITY AND UTILIZATION OF AINA-BASED LEARNING PROGRAMS OFFERED TO YOUTH IN THE JUVENILE LEGAL SYSTEM.

1 WHEREAS, research shows that charging fees, fines, costs,
2 and restitution to youth is harmful to young people and their
3 families; and
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5 WHEREAS, in Hawaii, the consequences of such costs fall
6 disproportionately on Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander, and
7 African-American youth, who are more likely to be arrested,
8 detained, and unable to afford fees, fines, costs, and
9 restitution; and
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11 WHEREAS, youth involved in the juvenile justice system are
12 frequently ordered to complete hours of community service in
13 lieu of court costs; and
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15 WHEREAS, in Hawaii, typical community service opportunities
16 do not give youth a chance to connect back with their culture
17 and the land, preventing rehabilitation and healing; and
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19 WHEREAS, this disconnection from culture increases the
20 likelihood of intergenerational trauma and recidivism; and
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22 WHEREAS, aina-based learning is grounded in teaching and
23 learning through aina, which encompasses the land, ocean, air,
24 and all living things; and
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26 WHEREAS, aina-based learning offers an opportunity for
27 minors to carry on the practices of their kupuna, strengthening
28 families and communities; and



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2 WHEREAS, through aina-based approaches, learners can deepen
3 their relationships with the natural environment, cultivating
4 connections with their communities and building critical skills
5 that can be applied to real-world issues; and
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7 WHEREAS, the majority of organizations utilizing aina-based
8 learning are not-for-profit organizations eager to support
9 youth; and
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11 WHEREAS, Hawaii has already committed to providing aina-
12 based education and stewardship opportunities to youth through
13 the Aloha+ Challenge; and
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15 WHEREAS, the State can do more to refer youth to
16 organizations employing aina-based learning to complete
17 community service obligations; now, therefore,
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19 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
20 Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
21 of 2025, the Senate concurring, that the Department of Human
22 Services' Office of Youth Services and Juvenile Justice State
23 Advisory Council are requested to examine the availability and
24 utilization of aina-based learning programs offered to youth in
25 the juvenile legal system; and
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27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Human
28 Services' Office of Youth Services and Juvenile Justice State
29 Advisory Council are requested to create and disseminate a list
30 of organizations employing aina-based learning that the courts
31 may use to assign community service to minors in the family
32 court system; and
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34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
35 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Human
36 Services, Executive Director of the Office of Youth Services,
37 and Chairperson of the Juvenile Justice State Advisory Council.

