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# HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII TO PRIORITIZE A CAPITAL  
IMPROVEMENT PROJECT TO CONSTRUCT "HALAU O KAWAIHUELANI".

1           WHEREAS, article XV, Section 4 of the Constitution of the  
2 State of Hawaii recognizes both Hawaiian and English as the  
3 official languages of Hawaii; and  
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5           WHEREAS, the Department of Education supports Hawaiian  
6 Language fluency among students in grades kindergarten through  
7 twelve in Kula Kaiapuni Hawaiian language immersion schools  
8 across the State, which require teachers to be fluent in the  
9 Hawaiian language; and  
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11           WHEREAS, the University of Hawaii's strategic plan  
12 identifies the University of Hawaii at Manoa as a "Hawaiian  
13 Place of Learning" and an indigenous serving institution; and  
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15           WHEREAS, the Kawaihuelani Center for Hawaiian Language is  
16 an academic department in the Hawai'inuiākea School of Hawaiian  
17 Knowledge at the University of Hawaii at Manoa; and  
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19           WHEREAS, the Kawaihuelani Center enrolled over eighty  
20 undergraduate majors and graduate students during the 2024-2025  
21 academic year, and currently teaches nearly one thousand  
22 students every semester in introductory and intermediate  
23 language courses, as well as general education foundation  
24 courses; and  
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26           WHEREAS, the Kawaihuelani Center and its sister center, the  
27 Kamakakūokalani Center for Hawaiian Studies, collectively enroll  
28 more than four thousand students each academic year in required  
29 general education, Hawaiian, and second language courses; and  
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31           WHEREAS, the growth of Hawaiian language fluency has led to  
32 a significant rise in Hawaiian language performances in theater  
33 and music, and scholarly publications in Hawaiian, as well as



1 research that relies upon Hawaiian language fluency for certain  
2 fields in science, social sciences, and the humanities; and

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4 WHEREAS, the Kawaihuelani Center and Kamakakūokalani Center  
5 have been authorized to plan a joint Doctor of Philosophy degree  
6 program in 'Ike Kūpuna (Hawaiian Knowledge), which would require  
7 graduate-level Hawaiian language fluency; and

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9 WHEREAS, the need for Hawaiian language and Hawaiian  
10 studies has led to a significant growth in permanent faculty in  
11 both programs; and

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13 WHEREAS, the Kamakakūokalani Center has housed its faculty  
14 and programs in the Kamakakūokalani building at the far eastern  
15 end of the University of Hawaii at Manoa campus, nearly one-half  
16 mile from the Kawaihuelani Center and the offices of the Dean of  
17 the Hawai'inuiākea School, which are located on the second floor  
18 of Spalding Hall; and

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20 WHEREAS, because Spalding Hall is shared by the Dean and  
21 staff of the Hawai'inuiākea School; Kawaihuelani Center; and Indo  
22 Pacific Languages and Graduate Division of the College of Arts,  
23 Languages and Letters; there is no room for expansion to  
24 accommodate both the current and the projected permanent staff  
25 and faculty of the Kawaihuelani Center; and

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27 WHEREAS, this physical separation has not been conducive to  
28 program collaboration and curricular innovation; now, therefore,

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30 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
31 Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
32 of 2025, that the University of Hawaii is requested to  
33 prioritize a capital improvement project to construct "Halau o  
34 Kawaihuelani", which is envisioned as an office and classroom  
35 building to accommodate the Hawai'inuiākea School's Dean and  
36 staff; the Kawaihuelani Center's faculty and staff; Hawaiian  
37 language classes; and a performing arts facility that provides a  
38 center for Hawaiian music, dance, and theater; and

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40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
41 Resolution be transmitted to the Chair of the Board of Regents  
42 of the University of Hawaii, President of the University of



1 Hawaii, Provost of the University of Hawaii at Manoa, Dean of  
2 the Hawai'inuiākea School of Hawaiian Knowledge, Director of the  
3 Kawaihuelani Center for Hawaiian Language, and Director of the  
4 Kamakakūokalani Center for Hawaiian Studies.

