

MAR 07 2025

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS TO ESTABLISH AND
PROVIDE LEGISLATIVE ENGAGEMENT FORUMS TO EDUCATE AND
EMPOWER THE NATIVE HAWAIIAN COMMUNITY REGARDING THE
LEGISLATIVE PROCESS.

1 WHEREAS, this body finds that the duties of the Office of
2 Hawaiian Affairs include:

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- 4 (1) Advancing the betterment of conditions of Native
5 Hawaiians;
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- 7 (2) Assessing the policies and practices of other agencies
8 impacting Native Hawaiians;
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- 10 (3) Conducting advocacy efforts for Native Hawaiians; and
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- 12 (4) Serving as the principal public agency in the State
13 responsible for the performance, development, and
14 coordination of programs and activities relating to
15 Native Hawaiians; and
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17 WHEREAS, the legislative process plays a crucial role in
18 shaping policies and laws that directly impact the Native
19 Hawaiian community; and

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21 WHEREAS, increasing resources and information on the
22 legislative process available to the Native Hawaiian community
23 will increase community engagement; and

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25 WHEREAS, increasing civic engagement and understanding of
26 the legislative process empowers Native Hawaiians to advocate
27 for their interests effectively; and

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29 WHEREAS, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs serves as a vital
30 institution dedicated to improving the well-being of Native
31 Hawaiians through advocacy, research, and community support; and



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WHEREAS, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs has the resources and capacity to facilitate educational initiatives that promote greater awareness and participation in the legislative process; and

WHEREAS, legislative engagement forums will provide valuable opportunities for Native Hawaiians to learn about bill drafting, testimony submission, committee hearings, and other aspects of civic engagement; and

WHEREAS, legislative engagement forums may be conducted through in-person workshops, virtual seminars, and outreach efforts in various communities across the State; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2025, the House of Representatives concurring, that the Office of Hawaiian Affairs is requested to establish and provide legislative engagement forums to educate and empower the Native Hawaiian community regarding the legislative process; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Office of Hawaiian Affairs is encouraged to collaborate with community organizations, educational institutions, and legislative bodies to ensure the accessibility and effectiveness of these forums; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that these legislative engagement forums should include educational materials, workshops, and mentorship opportunities that enable Native Hawaiians to effectively navigate the legislative process; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Office of Hawaiian Affairs is urged to provide an annual report to the Legislature summarizing the activities, participation, and impact of these forums, as well as recommendations for further improvement; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Office of Hawaiian Affairs is urged to consider establishing an advisory group composed of Native Hawaiian leaders, educators, and policy experts to guide and enhance the effectiveness of these efforts; and



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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
2 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the
3 Board of Trustees of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs and Chief
4 Executive Officer of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs.

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OFFERED BY:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kent M. Ruckelshaus", written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and includes a large flourish at the end.