WHEREAS, the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs is dedicated to the care and preservation of Hawaiian practices such as fishing and fisheries development, art, crafts, chants, legends and lore, navigation, access to historic sites, care of nā iwi kupuna, and other related cultural issues, as well as the rights of practitioners of these Hawaiian customs; and

WHEREAS, a commitment to the education and promotion of the understanding of Hawai‘i’s rich cultural history is one of the major tenets of the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Ocean Sciences Educational Excellence (COSEE) is currently developing Ocean Literacy Principles, principles that are meant to enhance an educators’ capacity to deliver a high-quality education in the ocean sciences and promote a deeper understanding of the ocean and its influence on and interconnection with human life, but that fail to address or recognize indigenous people’s cultural, customary, and traditional knowledge; and

WHEREAS, indigenous groups believe that these educational initiatives marginalize the knowledge of indigenous peoples, as well as their practices, and denigrate native traditions; and

WHEREAS, the United States has benefitted greatly from the knowledge and culture of the indigenous native people of this country, yet has not ratified the United Nations Declaration of Indigenous Rights that would provide a foundation for the development of fair and equitable adjudication of native claims; and

WHEREAS, there currently exists an effort to develop a national common core curriculum for education in the United States; and
WHEREAS, the United States supports equal rights and equal access to education; and

WHEREAS, traditional and cultural knowledge contains empirical, site-specific knowledge that can enhance education, learning, and understanding; and

WHEREAS, science can be enhanced by traditional and cultural knowledge to provide a broader educational spectrum and alternative ways of understanding; and

WHEREAS, traditional and cultural knowledge has been used to develop medicine and other commercial products thus enabling commercial and pharmaceutical industries to realize tremendous profits; and

WHEREAS, without the support of the mainstream educational system, valuable traditional and cultural knowledge can and will be marginalized and eventually lost; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2010, the that the State of Hawaii and Hawaii's congressional delegation are urged to support the emerging Traditional Knowledge Supplement to the Ocean Literacy Principles; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to Hawaii's congressional delegation and the Governor of the State of Hawaii.

OFFERED BY:

[Signatures]