
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO COMPLY IN FULL WITH THE FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE OFFICE OF THE AUDITOR'S MANAGEMENT AUDIT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION'S HAWAIIAN STUDIES PROGRAM.

1 WHEREAS, during the late 1960s and early 1970s, Hawai'i
2 experienced a grassroots movement to revitalize the native
3 Hawaiian culture, which also led to demands for Hawai'i-oriented
4 courses in Hawai'i's public schools and colleges; and
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6 WHEREAS, at the same time, proponents of the movement
7 acknowledged a risk of losing native knowledge of the Hawaiian
8 language, culture, and history permanently with many traditional
9 kupuna being of advanced age and rapidly dwindling in numbers;
10 which prompted the 1978 Constitutional Convention to propose a
11 Hawaiian Education Program that, upon approval by the voters,
12 became Article X, Section 4, of the Hawaii State Constitution;
13 and
14

15 WHEREAS, Article X, Section 4, of the Hawaii State
16 Constitution states:
17

18 "HAWAIIAN EDUCATION PROGRAM

19 Section 4. The State shall promote the study of
20 Hawaiian culture, history and language.
21

22 The State shall provide for a Hawaiian education
23 program consisting of language, culture and history in the
24 public schools. The use of community expertise shall be
25 encouraged as a suitable and essential means in furtherance
26 of the Hawaiian education program." (emphasis added); and
27

28 WHEREAS, the request primarily focused on the program's
29 kupuna component, which employs traditional kupuna (Hawaiian for
30 grandparent or elder) and individuals with knowledge of Hawaiian



1 language and culture to provide educational services to public
2 school children in grades K-6; specifically, the resolution
3 cited concerns relating to:

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- 5 (1) Funding, including allegations that moneys are
6 diverted to purposes not related to Hawaiian studies;
7
- 8 (2) Employment conditions of kupuna, including complaints
9 of inappropriate assignments and compensation
10 inconsistencies; and
11
- 12 (3) Leadership, oversight, and support, including outdated
13 curriculum and schools lacking the services of kupuna;
14 and
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16 WHEREAS, the Hawaiian Studies Program is designed to serve
17 all students in grades K-12 and consists of kupuna and makua
18 who, through their teaching and leadership alongside regular
19 teachers, seek to preserve the native language, values, history,
20 and culture of Hawai'i with all students; and
21

22 WHEREAS, program activities include support training for
23 regular classroom teachers to incorporate Hawaiian cultural and
24 historical content in a standards-based curriculum; and
25

26 WHEREAS, the Auditor previously issued two reports that
27 covered the Hawaiian Studies Program as part of larger reviews
28 of departmental programs: Budget Review and Analysis of the
29 Lower Education Program Report (No. 83-10), and Follow-Up Budget
30 Review and Analysis of the Lower Education Program (No. 84-13);
31

32 WHEREAS, in Report No. 83-10, issued three years after the
33 Hawaiian Studies Program's creation, the Auditor found that the
34 program design lacked comprehensiveness and the means to measure
35 its effect and recommended improvements to the program design;
36 and
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38 WHEREAS, the follow-up Report No. 84-13 a year later
39 reiterated criticism of the program's planning and evaluation
40 design; and
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42 WHEREAS, in Report No. 84-13, the Auditor noted that the
43 Department held the view that the classroom teacher should be



1 the cornerstone of the program and that Hawaiian concepts should
2 be totally merged into the existing elementary curriculum; and
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4 WHEREAS, Report No. 84-13 also noted that plans lacked
5 detail on how teachers would be trained to accomplish this goal
6 and the expected program effects; and
7

8 WHEREAS, Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 74, S.D. 1,
9 Regular Session of 2007, requested the Auditor to conduct a
10 financial, program, and management audit of the Department of
11 Education's Hawaiian Studies Program; and
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13 WHEREAS, in response to Senate Concurrent Resolution
14 No. 74, S.D. 1 (2007), the Auditor filed Report No. 08-02,
15 Management Audit of the Department of Education's Hawaiian
16 Studies Program (January 2008), which reported the following:
17

18 (1) Absent clear guidance, a realistic implementation
19 plan, and desired outcomes, the kupuna component of
20 the Hawaiian Studies Program has receded from its
21 initial prominent position as the Department of
22 Education's primary response to the Hawaiian education
23 mandate to a far less pivotal role. In fact, some
24 policy-makers no longer see the component as essential
25 to the compliance effort. Absent the means to
26 objectively demonstrate the component's effectiveness,
27 the Department relegates kupuna services to school
28 principals without adequate guidance and oversight to
29 ensure that the funds used will produce the desired
30 outcomes. The Board of Education has been reluctant
31 to assume a leadership role in defining what a
32 Hawaiian education should include, which has been
33 critical of the Department's inability to account for
34 its achievements; and
35

36 (2) While relying on schools to administer the services of
37 kupuna, the Department has failed to provide the
38 oversight and support needed to ensure that the kupuna
39 services provide value for taxpayer funds. In
40 addition, the program administrator's appropriation
41 guidelines provide no directions for acceptable
42 equivalent alternative services for schools that do
43 not hire kupuna, resulting in funds being diverted for
44 unauthorized or questionable purposes; and



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2 WHEREAS, the Management Audit of the Department of
3 Education's Hawaiian Studies Program cited the following as
4 major reasons for the slow deterioration of the Hawaiian Studies
5 K-6 Hawaiian Studies Program:

- 6
7 (1) The Board of Education and the Department of Education
8 have failed over twenty plus years to develop a viable
9 program with the necessary goals, objectives, and
10 evaluation components for the K-6 Hawaiian Studies
11 program with supportive curriculum and an evaluation
12 component to measure the desired outcomes of the
13 program;
14
15 (2) The Board further failed to delineate how the kupuna
16 program with its emphasis on kupuna knowledge and
17 expertise would bring about the desired outcomes for
18 learning the language, culture, and history for the
19 children;
20
21 (3) The Department of Education's failure to develop goals
22 or objectives for the program resulted in the
23 Department's inability to allocate the funds to the
24 program based on something measurable and concrete or
25 to conduct a meaningful evaluation of the kupuna
26 program and expenditures of kupuna monies;
27
28 (4) The Department failed to clearly delineate the role of
29 the classroom teacher vis-a-vis the kupuna; and
30
31 (5) The Department has allowed resources intended to
32 employ kupuna to be diverted to purposes with little
33 or no connection to a Hawaiian education. The audit
34 found that \$2,800,000 is provided to the schools to
35 hire kupuna. However, the funds are primarily spent
36 on operating expenditure, supplies, and capital items,
37 in direct violation with the Department's spending
38 guidelines; now, therefore,

39
40 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
41 Twenty-sixth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
42 of 2012, the Senate concurring, that the Board of Education and
43 the Department of Education are requested to:
44



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- 1 (1) Allocate resources to develop the fundamental
2 requirements of a viable K-6 educational program with
3 stated goals, objectives, and evaluation measures,
4 including the completion, dissemination, and
5 implementation of a five-year Hawaiian studies
6 strategic plan;
7
- 8 (2) Update and revise the Hawaiian studies program and
9 curriculum guides for grades K-6;
10
- 11 (3) Monitor the fiscal responsibility of the use of
12 Hawaiian studies funds in the schools;
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- 14 (4) Make a clear statement of the role of kupuna and makua
15 as teachers of the Hawaiian culture and the role of
16 the regular classroom teacher as a true partner in the
17 endeavor;
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- 19 (5) Allocate substantive resources to further kupuna and
20 makua training and educational programs in all aspects
21 of Hawaiian culture so they can impart the knowledge
22 as envisioned by the Hawaii State Constitution for the
23 keiki (children) of Hawaii; and
24
- 25 (6) Provide an accounting of all expenditures relating to
26 the implementation of Article X, Section 4, of the
27 Hawaii State Constitution that establishes a Hawaiian
28 education program, and require accounting to be in
29 accordance with the recommendations of the Management
30 Audit of the Department of Education's Hawaiian
31 Studies Program; and
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33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education and
34 Department of Education report its progress on the items listed
35 above to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the
36 convening of the Regular Session of 2013; and
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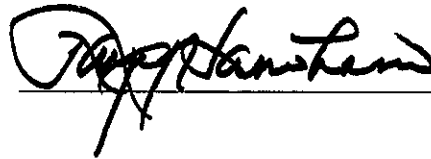


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2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
3 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the
4 Board of Education, the Superintendent of Education, and the
5 Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Office of Hawaiian
6 Affairs.

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OFFERED BY:



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