
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING A REVIEW OF THE STATE'S FUNDING FOR EXISTING ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE INSTRUCTION AND ACTIVITIES AND HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE PROGRAMS OFFERED IN HAWAII AND ANY DISPARITIES IN FUNDING FOR THE STATE'S TWO OFFICIAL LANGUAGES.

1 WHEREAS, the Hawaiian language was once a thriving language
2 spoken and read by Native Hawaiians and foreigners alike; and
3

4 WHEREAS, by the late twentieth century, however, the
5 Hawaiian language was pushed to the brink of extinction due to a
6 number of factors, including an 1896 law that banned the
7 speaking of the Hawaiian language in Hawaii schools; and
8

9 WHEREAS, fortunately, the Hawaiian language was saved by
10 several historic initiatives, but fluent speakers are still in
11 the minority; and
12

13 WHEREAS, the Hawaiian language is a critical component of
14 the heritage of the State of Hawaii, and the State has a solemn
15 obligation to perpetuate the Hawaiian language; and
16

17 WHEREAS, the federal Native American Languages Act of 1990
18 recognizes the United States' responsibility to ensure the
19 survival of Native American languages and establishes the
20 nation's policy of encouraging and supporting the use of Native
21 American languages as a medium of instruction to help preserve
22 those languages; and
23

24 WHEREAS, the Hawaii State Constitution recognizes the
25 Hawaiian language as one of the two official languages of the
26 State; and
27

28 WHEREAS, services to students in the statewide English
29 Language Learner Program include instructional services
30 consisting of English as a Second Language type instruction and



1 acculturation activities; however, funding for Hawaiian language
2 immersion and other Hawaiian language programs is far more
3 limited; now, therefore,
4

5 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-sixth
6 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2012, the
7 House of Representatives concurring, that the University of
8 Hawaii, with the assistance of the Department of Education and
9 other educational organizations, as appropriate, is requested to
10 review the State's funding for existing English as a Second
11 Language instruction and activities and Hawaiian language
12 programs offered in Hawaii and any disparities in funding for
13 the State's two official languages; and
14

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the University of Hawaii is
16 requested to report its findings and recommendations, including
17 projected costs to address any disparities in funding, to the
18 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
19 the Regular Session of 2013; and
20

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
22 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of the
23 University of Hawaii System and the Superintendent of Education.

