
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT AND
THE COLLEGE OF HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE TO ESTABLISH A WORKING
GROUP TO EXAMINE THE EXPANSION OF HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE
INSTRUCTION THROUGHOUT THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM.

1 WHEREAS, the Hawaii State Constitution recognizes Hawaiian
2 as an official language of Hawaii and further recognizes that
3 study of the Hawaiian language ought to be promoted and
4 protected within the context of traditional and customary
5 rights; and
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7 WHEREAS, in 1996, the Legislature identified "a need to
8 establish a center for excellence at the University of Hawaii at
9 Hilo campus that will conduct all its business in the Hawaiian
10 language, and that will serve as a focal point for the State's
11 efforts to revitalize the Hawaiian language through teacher
12 training, graduate study of Hawaiian, community outreach, and
13 planning for general education in Hawaiian for future
14 generations of Hawaiian speakers"; and
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16 WHEREAS, legislative consideration of the Hawaiian language
17 in 1996 has led to further action taken by the Legislature in
18 1997, 2001, and 2006 to protect and expand the role of Hawaiian
19 language in the State; and
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21 WHEREAS, legislative accomplishments relating to the
22 College of Hawaiian Language include the establishment of a
23 partnership with the Office of Hawaiian Affairs and the
24 non-profit organization, 'Aha Pūnana Leo, Inc., which allowed the
25 College to commence instruction without requiring additional
26 funds from the State; and
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28 WHEREAS, since its founding, the College of Hawaiian
29 Language has provided entirely in the Hawaiian language a
30 preschool through twelfth grade laboratory school, a teacher



1 certification program, two Master's degrees, and doctoral
2 program; and

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4 WHEREAS, the College of Hawaiian Language programs on
5 Native American language are the first of their kind in the
6 nation, and have drawn significant national and international
7 attention to Hawaii; and

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9 WHEREAS, the importance of the College of Hawaiian Language
10 extends beyond academic programs to include crucial resource
11 support to the Department of Education in meeting state
12 constitutional mandates relative to the promotion and use of the
13 Hawaiian language in state public and charter schools; and

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15 WHEREAS, the College of Hawaiian Language provides the
16 majority of teaching materials through Hawaiian used in state
17 public and charter schools, expanded contemporary vocabulary in
18 Hawaiian needed for instructional purposes in these schools,
19 online dictionary and primary source materials through the
20 Ulukau online Hawaiian electronic library, and other services
21 including Hawaiian language assessments, teacher in-service
22 training, and parent workshops crucial to the success of
23 preschool through twelfth grade education; and

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25 WHEREAS, the College of Hawaiian Language and its preschool
26 through doctoral level programs operated entirely in the
27 Hawaiian language has drawn much attention in the State, nation,
28 and internationally with requests for support, services, and
29 courses to be provided to communities; and

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31 WHEREAS, the standard structure of the University of Hawaii
32 System includes barriers to the maximum use of the College of
33 Hawaiian Language by the University of Hawaii System, its
34 faculty and students, and the general public to address the
35 Hawaiian language needs of the State; and

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37 WHEREAS, that standard structure of the University of
38 Hawaii System also includes barriers to maximum use of the
39 College of Hawaiian Language to serve the national and
40 international needs of other indigenous peoples; and

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1 WHEREAS, the standard structure of the University of Hawaii
2 System, which mirrors in large part equivalent systems of
3 English language medium higher education institution in the
4 other forty-nine states, is not designed for a state with two
5 official languages; and

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7 WHEREAS, international structural models already exist for
8 integrating into a large university system a smaller second
9 official language and higher education through it that may well
10 be adapted within the University of Hawaii system as a means to
11 make maximum use of the College of Hawaiian Language; and

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13 WHEREAS, over the past several months the administration of
14 the College of Hawaiian Language, University of Hawaii at Hilo,
15 and University of Hawaii System have met to discuss how to
16 better form the College of Hawaiian Language into a unique
17 Hawaiian model to expand services that meet state Hawaiian
18 language needs; and

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20 WHEREAS, at a meeting held on February 26, 2015, the
21 Director of the College of Hawaiian Language, Chancellor of the
22 University of Hawaii at Hilo, Vice President for Academic
23 Affairs of the University of Hawaii System, and President of the
24 University of Hawaii System agreed that a formal study was
25 necessary to determine how to restructure the College of
26 Hawaiian Language to better serve state needs; and

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28 WHEREAS, after reviewing the history of the College of
29 Hawaiian Language as an entity established and codified in law
30 by the Legislature, it was determined that the Legislature
31 should take the lead in requesting and reviewing a formal study
32 to restructure the College of Hawaiian Language; now, therefore,

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34 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
35 Twenty-eighth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
36 Session of 2015, the Senate concurring, that the University of
37 Hawaii Office of the President and College of Hawaiian Language
38 are requested to establish a working group to examine the
39 expansion of Hawaiian language instruction throughout the
40 University of Hawaii System; and

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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the purpose of the working
2 group is to research and report to the Legislature:

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- 4 (1) The current structure and pedagogy of the College of
5 Hawaiian Language;
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 - 7 (2) Recent and current trends in student-driven
8 initiatives to learn Hawaiian; and
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 - 10 (3) Specific strategies to enhance and expedite Hawaiian
11 language instruction on the different University of
12 Hawaii campuses and throughout the University of
13 Hawaii System; and
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15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested
16 to include:

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- 18 (1) The President of the University of Hawaii, or the
19 President's designee;
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 - 21 (2) The Vice President for Academic Affairs, or the Vice
22 President's designee;
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 - 24 (3) The Chancellor of the University of Hawaii at Hilo, or
25 the Chancellor's designee;
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 - 27 (4) The Director of the College of Hawaiian Language, or
28 the Director's designee; and
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 - 30 (5) One representative from the Office of Hawaiian
31 Affairs; and
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33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested
34 to report its findings and recommendations, including any
35 proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty
36 days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2016; and
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38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group dissolve on
39 June 30, 2016; and

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41 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
42 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the



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1 Board of Trustees of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, Chairperson
 2 of the Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii, President
 3 of the University of Hawaii System, Vice President of Academic
 4 Affairs of the University of Hawaii System, Chancellor of the
 5 University of Hawaii at Hilo, and Director of the College of
 6 Hawaiian Language.

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OFFERED BY:

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