URGING PRIVATE SCHOOLS IN HAWAI‘I TO CONSIDER OFFERING OR CONTINUE OFFERING HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE INSTRUCTION AS AN OPTION OR AN ELECTIVE IN THEIR ACADEMIC CURRICULUM.

WHEREAS, approximately twenty-three public schools (grades kindergarten through twelve), including six charter schools, throughout the State offer Hawaiian language immersion (Kula Kaiapuni); and

WHEREAS, the private Hawaiian immersion preschool system, ‘Aha Punana Leo, was established in 1983; and

WHEREAS, ‘Aha Kauleo for Papahana Kaiapuni Hawai‘i, a guidance/advisory council for the development and growth of Hawaiian medium in schools, is under the Office of Hawaiian Education in the Department of Education; and

WHEREAS, of the one hundred seven private schools in Hawai‘i, there are sixty-nine on Oahu, sixteen on Maui, fourteen on Hawai‘i island, six on Kauai, and two on Moloka‘i; there are an additional two private colleges; and

WHEREAS, some private schools in Hawai‘i teach ‘olelo Hawai‘i; and

WHEREAS, a review of private school literature indicates that although Hawaii Baptist Academy, Hawaii Pacific University, Hawaii Preparatory Academy, ‘Iolani School, Island Pacific Academy, Kamehameha Schools, Kawaihao Church School, Maryknoll, Parker School, Punahou School, Sacred Hearts Academy, St. Andrews Priory School, St. Joseph School, St. Louis School, Seabury Hall, and Star of the Sea School are teaching Hawaiian, most of the private schools do not; and

WHEREAS, Hawaiian is not considered a world language such as Chinese, French, or Spanish, and is therefore not offered in
some private schools, but those same schools recognize the
importance of students to acquire an objective view of students'
native language, and to understand the language and cultures of
other people; and

WHEREAS, it is commonly known that there are advantages to
being multilingual, that languages are easily learned as youth,
and that the cultures of peoples are learned through peoples'
language, including Hawaiian; and

WHEREAS, throughout the modern history of Hawai‘i there has
been controversy regarding which language, Hawaiian or English,
should have prominent use; however, since the 1978
Constitutional Convention, Hawaiian and English have been
recognized as official languages of Hawai‘i; and

WHEREAS, Hawaiian is the host culture of our islands and is
enjoyed by all; and

WHEREAS, the State of Hawai‘i retains the Hawaiian language
motto and anthem; and

WHEREAS, there are many aids to learning Hawaiian, such as
Hawaiian-English (1957) and English-Hawaiian (1964) dictionaries
by Mary Kawena Pukui and Samuel H. Elbert; Ulukau, a Hawaiian
language digital library with searchable files in Hawaiian;
Apple Computer's Hawaiian language support that includes a
Hawaiian keyboard for iPhone and Google; Hawaiian language
columns in the daily newspaper; and translations of Hawaiian
language newspapers into English; and

WHEREAS, the learning of Hawaiian language is robust at the
college level, as evidenced by thriving enrollment in the
Bachelor of Arts in Hawaiian Language program at the University
of Hawai‘i since the 1970s, a Ph.D. award in Indigenous Language
and Cultural Revitalization at the University of Hawai‘i since
2004, and accreditation by the World Indigenous Nations Higher
Education Consortium (WINHEC) of the Ka Haku ‘Ula O Ke‘elikolani
College of Hawaiian Language at the University of Hawai‘i at
Hilo, all indicating that Hawaiian language studies are thriving
at the college level; and
WHEREAS, in 2013, the month of February was designated as Mahina 'Olelo Hawai'i ('Olelo Hawai'i Month) through the enactment of section 8-24, Hawaii Revised Statutes; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2017, the House of Representatives concurring, that private schools in Hawai'i are urged to consider offering or continue offering Hawaiian language instruction as an option or an elective in their academic curriculum; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that private schools that do not currently teach 'olelo Hawai'i are requested to take a survey of parents and students to determine interest in learning the language; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education support the curriculum and instruction of 'olelo Hawai'i in private schools in Hawai'i that express interest in adding Hawaiian to their curriculum and instruction; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that private schools are requested to look for ways to incorporate Hawaiian language into their curriculum and instruction; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to 'Aha Kauleo for Papahana Kaiapuni Hawai'i, Hawaii Association of Independent Schools and other similar organizations that represent private schools, who are requested to transmit a copy of this Concurrent Resolution to each of their member schools; and to each private school in the State that is not a member of an independent association or organization.

OFFERED BY: