REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO ESTABLISH A TASK FORCE TO LOCATE POTENTIAL, VIALBE PROPERTIES ALONG THE WAI'ANAE COAST ON WHICH TO ESTABLISH A HAWAIIAN-LANGUAGE IMMERSION SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS FROM KINDERGARTEN TO GRADE 12.

WHEREAS, kupuna in the Nānākuli ahupua'a have been striving to reestablish their children and grandchildren's cultural identity through the Hawaiian language since the 1960s; and

WHEREAS, despite the growth of Hawaiian-language immersion schools in other areas of the state, the creation of a Hawaiian studies curriculum within the Department of Education, and the establishment of a Hawaiian studies program at the University of Hawaii, the Nānākuli community continues to lack a Hawaiian-language immersion school from kindergarten to grade 12; and

WHEREAS, the Nānākuli ahupua'a has been home to the highest concentration of Hawaiians in the world for over 50 years, and children from the Wai'anae Coast constitute a significant portion of the student population at Hawaiian-language immersion schools in other areas of the state; and

WHEREAS, Pūnana Leo o Wai'anae serves students in pre-kindergarten and kindergarten, while Ke Kula Kaiapuni 'o Nānākuli serves students from kindergarten through grade six; and

WHEREAS, however, Ke Kula Kaiapuni 'o Nānākuli has experienced a decline in enrollment because parents prefer to enroll their children in an immersion school that serves students from kindergarten through grade 12; and

WHEREAS, as a result, many students have transferred to Hawaiian-language immersion schools in other school districts,
including Ke Kula Kaiapuni ‘O Ānuenue in the Honolulu School
District; and

WHEREAS, a high percentage of students who reside in the
Leeward School District are being transported via school bus to
immersion schools in other areas, which raises costs for both
parents and the Department of Education; 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 the Department of
Education is requested to establish a task force to locate
potential, viable properties along the Waiʻanae coast, with a
preference for a location in Māʻili, on which to establish a
Hawaiian-language immersion school to educate students from
kindergarten through grade 12; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force should consist
of the following members:

(1) The Superintendent of Education, or the
Superintendent's designee;

(2) The Executive Director of the State Public Charter
School Commission, or the Executive Director's
designee;

(3) The Chairperson of the Hawaiian Homes Commission, or
the Chairperson's designee;

(4) The Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural
Resources, or the Chairperson's designee;

(5) The Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of the Office
of Hawaiian Affairs, or the Chairperson's designee;

(6) The Mayor of the City and County of Honolulu, or the
Mayor's designee; and

(7) Members representing the community and stakeholders; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Superintendent of Education, or the Superintendent's designee, should serve as the chairperson of the task force; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that no member should be subject to Chapter 84, Hawaii Revised Statutes, solely because of that member's participation as a member of the task force; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to submit a report of its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature at least 30 days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2019; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Superintendent of Education, Executive Director of the State Public Charter School Commission, Chairperson of the Hawaiian Homes Commission, Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, and Mayor of the City and County of Honolulu.

OFFERED BY: 

[Signatures]

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