

MAR 03 2020

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO: (1) DEVELOP A HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE AND HAWAIIAN CULTURAL SENSITIVITY AND FAMILIARITY PROGRAM FOR EMPLOYEES THROUGH ITS OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN EDUCATION TO INCLUDE THE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION BY 2023; (2) ESTABLISH A HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE GRADUATION EXIT REQUIREMENT FOR ALL PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS BY 2030; AND (3) STRENGTHEN THE HAWAIIAN HISTORY REQUIREMENT TO INCLUDE PRE-1959 HISTORY TO BE TAUGHT FROM AN INDIGENOUS HAWAIIAN PERSPECTIVE BY 2030.

1 WHEREAS, since 1978 the Hawaiian language has been one of
2 two official languages of the State of Hawai'i; and

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4 WHEREAS, the Department of Education is one of the official
5 departments of the State; and

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7 WHEREAS, even though the Department of Education is
8 comprised of Native Hawaiian charter schools and Hawaiian
9 language immersion schools, some of the components of the
10 Department have presented themselves as if Hawaiian language and
11 Hawaiian culture belong only to the charter and immersion
12 schools, and the Office of Hawaiian Education; and

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14 WHEREAS, the Department of Education finds its origins in
15 the reign of Kamehameha III, at whose
16 direction, the Department of Education was first established in
17 Hawai'i in 1840 - this also being one of the first of its kind in
18 the world; and

19
20 WHEREAS, the Hawaiian language was the medium language of
21 education in Hawai'i from 1831 at the establishment of
22 Lahāinalūna to 1896, when conspirators and traitors against the
23 Kingdom of Hawai'i, calling themselves the Republic of Hawai'i,



1 made it illegal to use Hawaiian language as the medium language
2 of education; and
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4 WHEREAS, even though, during the Territory of Hawai'i in
5 1919, efforts were made to require the teaching of Hawaiian
6 language in all public schools, the efforts proved ceremonial
7 and insincere; and
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9 WHEREAS, via oral and written documentations, native
10 speakers of Hawaiian language reported that they were subjected
11 to corporal punishment, ridiculed and embarrassed for speaking
12 Hawaiian in the public schools, and some elders reported that
13 classmates were paid to spy on students who spoke Hawaiian on
14 the playgrounds during recesses; and
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16 WHEREAS, during the Territory of Hawai'i, public schools
17 sent home letters instructing parents not to speak Hawaiian in
18 their homes; and
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20 WHEREAS, much of the destruction and near extinction of the
21 Hawaiian language is due to the behaviors and policies, either
22 led or tolerated by the Department of Education in the Republic
23 of Hawai'i, the Territory of Hawai'i, and the State; and
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25 WHEREAS, the Department of Education acted as an agent of
26 the Republic, Territory, and State who share in the
27 responsibility of the destruction and near extinction of the
28 Hawaiian language; and
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30 WHEREAS, even though in 1980, the Department of Education
31 established the Kupuna Program, today very few schools have
32 kūpuna or mākua to culturally enhance its educational programs;
33 and
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35 WHEREAS, Hawai'i celebrates the Hawaiian language through
36 its immersion schools and Hawaiian public charter schools, these
37 programs represent the clear and significant minority of student
38 enrolled in the State's public schools; and
39

40 WHEREAS, according to the 2014 statistics, Native Hawaiians
41 account for twenty-seven per cent of all students in Department
42 of Education public schools; and



1
2 WHEREAS, in June 2015, Nā Hopena A‘o (HĀ) framework, was
3 adopted by the Board of Education as a department-wide policy to
4 honor the qualities and values of the indigenous language and
5 culture of Hawai‘i; and
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7 WHEREAS, Hawaiian history is taught in the public schools
8 as Modern Hawaiian History, a semester course that usually
9 teaches Hawaiian history from 1959 (Statehood) to present; but
10 ignores the vibrant Kingdom history and other important history
11 preceding 1959; and
12

13 WHEREAS, the significant majority of students enrolled in
14 the Department of Education public schools graduate annually,
15 never being exposed to even the basics of Hawaiian language; and
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17 WHEREAS, for over 120 years the Hawaiian language has
18 struggled to survive as a result of, and due to the
19 aforementioned policies, rules and laws of the Republic,
20 Territory, State, and its Department of Education, resulting in
21 the near annihilation of this critical foundation of Hawaiian
22 culture; and
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24 WHEREAS, the Maui Council of the Association of Hawaiian
25 Civic Clubs, representing the home of Lahainaluna, the
26 celebrated first school west of the Rockies and first school of
27 the Department of Education, is calling on the State and its
28 Department of Education to honor its responsibility to
29 rehabilitate the Hawaiian language and cultural lens in all
30 communities that the two serve; and
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32 WHEREAS, The Maui Council of the Association of Hawaiian
33 Civic Clubs adopted this resolution at its annual council
34 convention held on Maui in July, forwarding the same to the
35 Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs to be considered as a
36 resolution submitted by the Maui Council of Hawaiian Civic
37 Clubs; now, therefore,
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39 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirtieth Legislature
40 of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2020, the House of
41 Representatives concurring, that the Department of Education is
42 urged to:



S.C.R. NO. 61

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- 2 (1) Develop a Hawaiian language and Hawaiian cultural
- 3 sensitivity and familiarity program for employees
- 4 through its Office of Hawaiian Education to include
- 5 the members of the Board of Education by 2023;
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- 7 (2) Establish a Hawaiian language graduation exit
- 8 requirement for all public school students by 2030;
- 9 and
- 10
- 11 (3) Strengthen the Hawaiian history requirement to include
- 12 pre-1959 history to be taught from an indigenous
- 13 Hawaiian perspective by 2030; and
- 14

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 16 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, President
 17 of the Senate, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Chair of
 18 the Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs, Chair of the House
 19 Committee on Water, Land, and Hawaiian Affairs, Chair of the
 20 Board of Trustees of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, Chair of
 21 the Board of Education, Superintendent of Education, all County
 22 Mayors, Chief Executive Officer of Council of Native Hawaiian
 23 Advancement, and Chair of Native Hawaiian Education Council.

OFFERED BY:


 Kurt Ferrell











