
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO OPPOSE BUDGET CUTS TO
PUBLIC EDUCATION AND PROTECT HAWAIIAN EDUCATION FROM
REGRESSION.

1 WHEREAS, the strength of the State is shaped by a strong
2 educational system, the benefits of which are societal and
3 personal; and

4
5 WHEREAS, support for education also leads to sustainable,
6 generative practices that ensure an independent economic future
7 for Hawai'i; and

8
9 WHEREAS, article X, section 4, of the Hawai'i State
10 Constitution requires the State to provide a Hawaiian education
11 program consisting of language, culture, and history in the
12 public schools; and encourages the use of community expertise as
13 a suitable and essential means in furtherance of the Hawaiian
14 education program; and

15
16 WHEREAS, in 1978, the people of the State of Hawai'i voted
17 to amend the Hawai'i State Constitution to include 'ōlelo Hawai'i,
18 the Native Hawaiian language, as an official language of the
19 State, equal to the English language; and

20
21 WHEREAS, in 2019, the Hawai'i Supreme Court ruled in
22 *Clarabal ex rel. C.M.K.C. v. Department of Education*, SCAP-16-
23 0000475, that article X, section 4, of the Hawai'i State
24 Constitution requires the State "to institute a program that is
25 reasonably calculated to revive the Hawaiian language"; and

26
27 WHEREAS, Hawaii Chief Justice Mark E. Recktenwald wrote in
28 *Clarabal* that "it is clear that through the adoption of article
29 X, section 4, the framers intended to provide each child in the



H.C.R. NO. 64

1 public schools with a reasonable opportunity to become fluent in
2 'ōlelo Hawai'i."; and

3
4 WHEREAS, the Department of Education, responsible for
5 maintaining and supporting the K-12 public education system in
6 the State, and the University of Hawai'i system serve as the
7 educational pipeline for the students of Hawai'i; and

8
9 WHEREAS, the University of Hawai'i system mission and value
10 statements, goals, and strategic plan state that the University
11 will be "a Hawaiian place of learning that summons our rich
12 knowledge systems to help mālama Hawai'i and the world for future
13 generations"; and

14
15 WHEREAS, the proposed budget cuts to the Department of
16 Education directly threaten the educational pipeline that has
17 been established with the University of Hawai'i system; and

18
19 WHEREAS, the proposed budget cuts to the Department of
20 Education also directly negatively impact the economic future of
21 the State of Hawaii by weakening Hawaii's education pipeline;
22 and

23
24 WHEREAS, the proposed budget cuts to the Department of
25 Education Office of Hawaiian Education directly impact the
26 Department's ability to fulfill the requirements of article X,
27 section 4, of the Hawai'i State Constitution; now, therefore,

28
29 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
30 Thirty-first Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
31 of 2021, the Senate concurring, that the Department of Education
32 is urged to oppose budget cuts to public education and protect
33 Hawaiian education from regression; and

34
35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education and
36 the Department of Budget and Finance are requested to reconsider
37 proposed action to significantly reduce the Department of
38 Education's budget due to the potentially damaging effects on
39 all haumāna of Hawaii's public schools and the tremendous
40 negative effects proposed reductions will have on Hawai'i's
41 economy; and

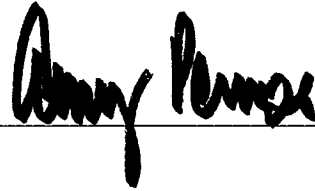


H.C.R. NO. 64

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
2 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the
3 Board of Education, Superintendent of Education, and Director of
4 Finance.

5
6
7

OFFERED BY:



MAR 0 1 2021

