
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO
ELEVATE HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE AND CULTURAL EDUCATION IN PUBLIC
HIGH SCHOOLS BY INCORPORATING MORE DIVERSE HAWAIIAN
LANGUAGE AND CULTURAL CLASSES AS CORE REQUIREMENTS
THROUGHOUT SECONDARY EDUCATION.

1 WHEREAS, article X, section 1, of the Hawaii State
2 Constitution provides for the establishment of a statewide
3 system of public schools; and

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5 WHEREAS, article X, section 4, of the Hawaii State
6 Constitution requires that the "State shall promote the study of
7 Hawaiian culture, history, and language" and "provide for a
8 Hawaiian education program consisting of language, culture, and
9 history in the public schools"; and

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11 WHEREAS, article XV, section 4, of the Hawaii State
12 Constitution officially recognizes Hawaiian as an official
13 language of the State; and

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15 WHEREAS, in 2019, the Hawaii Supreme Court held in *Clarabal*
16 *v. Dep't of Educ.*, 145 Hawaii 69 (2019), that the framers of the
17 Hawaii State Constitution intended article X, section 4, to
18 require the State to "provide a Hawaiian education program in
19 public schools that is reasonably calculated to revive and
20 preserve 'ōlelo Hawai'i"; and

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22 WHEREAS, Chief Justice Recktenwald noted in his concurrence
23 in the judgement of the *Clarabal* case that, "the framers
24 emphasized the importance of reviving 'ōlelo Hawai'i through the
25 public education system, in order to ensure that all children of
26 the State of Hawai'i have exposure to Hawaiian language, culture
27 and history"; and



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1 WHEREAS, native Hawaiian students represent the single
2 largest ethnic group in the State's public schools, at twenty-
3 six percent of the student population, and deserve a curriculum
4 that is attentive to the perpetuation of their culture and
5 identity; and

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7 WHEREAS, Hawaiian education benefits students of all ethnic
8 backgrounds by contributing to an understanding and appreciation
9 of Hawaii's unique cultural and historical context; and

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11 WHEREAS, Hawaiian education perpetuates the skills,
12 knowledge, values, and practices of the native people of Hawaii
13 and offers innovative and place-based responses to the demands
14 of a rapidly changing world; and

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16 WHEREAS, embracing an educational philosophy that honors
17 and promotes a native Hawaiian perspective can foster
18 multilingualism, multiculturalism, educational experience, and
19 whole-child development; and

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21 WHEREAS, the 0.5 credit Modern Hawaiian History class is
22 currently the only core curriculum requirement at the high
23 school level dedicated to addressing article X, section 4, of
24 the Hawaii State Constitution; and

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26 WHEREAS, high school student participants in the Twenty-
27 Seventh Annual Children and Youth Summit identified the
28 elevation of diverse Hawaiian education courses in public
29 schools as a priority for young people in Hawaii; now,
30 therefore,

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32 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
33 Thirty-first Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
34 of 2021, the Senate concurring, that the Board of Education and
35 Department of Education are urged to elevate Hawaiian language
36 and cultural education in public high schools by incorporating
37 more diverse Hawaiian language and cultural classes as core
38 requirements throughout secondary education; and



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

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OFFERED BY:



JAN 22 2021

