
HOUSE RESOLUTION

ENCOURAGING HAWAII'S UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES TO TEACH
TRADITIONAL JOURNALISM AND OBJECTIVE, FACT-BASED REPORTING.

1 WHEREAS, the Hawaii State Legislature upholds that a
2 majority of journalists are objective and hardworking fact-based
3 individuals, however as the polemics of broadcast stations such
4 as CNN and Fox News, or newspapers such as the Washington Post
5 vs. the Washington Times, polarization and politization of the
6 news has crept into the profession; and
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8 WHEREAS, Hawaii's colleges and universities, regardless of
9 the political affiliations or leanings of their faculty, should
10 be dedicated to journalism's original intent of being the
11 "Fourth Estate," which should serve as a watchdog, rather than
12 taking sides on government issues or political parties; and
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14 WHEREAS, recent journalist and core curricula have been
15 diluted and in some American colleges and universities to the
16 extent that objective fact-based journalism is less emphasized
17 in the classroom today than before; and
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19 WHEREAS, contemporary journalism graduates may be ill-
20 prepared or less capable to competently report on important
21 topics, such as the macroeconomic effects of the pandemic, or
22 the current events on the southern border, etc; and
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24 WHEREAS, the RAND Corporation found that these journalistic
25 trends could lead to a type of "Truth Decay," or a phenomenon
26 that erodes civil discourse, causes political paralysis at the
27 state and federal levels and spurs individual disengagement from
28 political and civic life; and
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30 WHEREAS, a lack of confidence in a free and objective press
31 erodes our fundamental democratic values in both the State of
32 Hawaii and in our country; and Now Therefore
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H.R. NO. 161

1 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
2 Thirty-first Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
3 of 2021, that we hereby encourage colleges and universities
4 across the State of Hawaii to teach objective, fact-based
5 reporting, with a view to returning confidence to the people of
6 Hawaii that journalism is objective and fact-based reporting
7 according to the tenants of freedom of the press; and
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9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaii State Legislature
10 further encourages Hawaii colleges and universities to create
11 curricula that teaches future journalists to avoid personal
12 commentary, emotionalism, polemics and partisanship; and
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14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
15 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, State Senate
16 President, the State Board of Education, Hawaii Schools
17 Superintendent, the University of Hawaii Board of Regents and
18 the President of the University of Hawaii, and the Chancellors
19 of Hawaii's Community Colleges, Hawaii Pacific University,
20 Chaminade University, and Brigham Young University.
21
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OFFERED BY:



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