
HOUSE 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
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5 WHEREAS, support for education also leads to sustainable,
6 generative practices that ensure an independent economic future
7 for Hawai'i; and
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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
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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
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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
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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
30 public schools with a reasonable opportunity to become fluent in
31 'ōlelo Hawai'i."; and



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1 WHEREAS, the Department of Education, responsible for
2 maintaining and supporting the K-12 public education system in
3 the State, and the University of Hawai'i system serve as the
4 educational pipeline for the students of Hawai'i; and
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6 WHEREAS, the University of Hawai'i system mission and value
7 statements, goals, and strategic plan state that the University
8 will be "a Hawaiian place of learning that summons our rich
9 knowledge systems to help mālama Hawai'i and the world for future
10 generations"; and
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12 WHEREAS, the proposed budget cuts to the Department of
13 Education directly threaten the educational pipeline that has
14 been established with the University of Hawai'i system; and
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16 WHEREAS, the proposed budget cuts to the Department of
17 Education also directly negatively impact the economic future of
18 the State of Hawaii by weakening Hawaii's education pipeline;
19 and
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21 WHEREAS, the proposed budget cuts to the Department of
22 Education Office of Hawaiian Education directly impact the
23 Department's ability to fulfill the requirements of article X,
24 section 4, of the Hawai'i State Constitution; now, therefore,
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26 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
27 Thirty-first Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
28 of 2021, that the Department of Education is urged to oppose
29 budget cuts to public education and protect Hawaiian education
30 from regression; and
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32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education and
33 the Department of Budget and Finance are requested to reconsider
34 proposed action to significantly reduce the Department of
35 Education's budget due to the potentially damaging effects on
36 all haumāna of Hawaii's public schools and the tremendous
37 negative effects proposed reductions will have on Hawai'i's
38 economy; and



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

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OFFERED BY: _____



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