
HOUSE 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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29 WHEREAS, native Hawaiian students represent the single
30 largest ethnic group in the State's public schools, at twenty-



H.R. NO. 9

1 six percent of the student population, and deserve a curriculum
2 that is attentive to the perpetuation of their culture and
3 identity; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

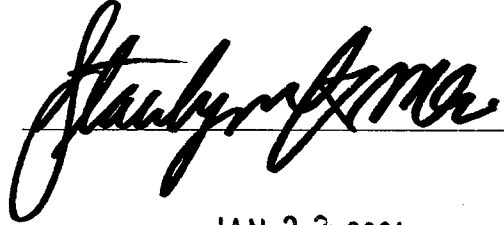


H.R. NO. 9

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

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OFFERED BY:



JAN 22 2021

