
HOUSE RESOLUTION

URGING THE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO
ELEVATE HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE AND CULTURAL EDUCATION IN PUBLIC
HIGH SCHOOLS BY EXPANDING ACCESS TO HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE AND
CULTURAL CLASSES THAT FULFILL 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 recognizes Hawaiian as an official language of the
13 State; and

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

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



1 twenty-six percent of the student population, and deserve a
2 curriculum that is attentive to the perpetuation of their
3 culture and 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
25 Twenty-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 expanding access to Hawaiian language and
35 cultural classes that fulfill core requirements throughout
36 secondary education; and
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38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education's
39 Office of Hawaiian Education is requested to identify public
40 school teachers who have received or would like to receive
41 training in Hawaiian language and culture to increase access to
42 Hawaiian content in secondary schools; and



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.

