

MAR 11 2022

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE HAWAII COUNCIL FOR THE HUMANITIES, STATE
FOUNDATION ON CULTURE AND THE ARTS, AND THE HAWAII STATE
PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM TO COLLABORATE FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT
OF A HAWAII STATE POET LAUREATE PROGRAM.

1 WHEREAS, Hawaii has a rich and diverse culture that melds
2 the customs, art, history, traditions, and music of Native
3 Hawaiians and the many peoples that comprise the community that
4 is Hawaii; and

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6 WHEREAS, this unique culture is expressed in the mele, oli,
7 and mo'olelo of the Hawaiian people, and the literature, music,
8 and traditions of the various peoples that have settled in
9 Hawaii; and

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11 WHEREAS, literature and poetry are a way to blend the
12 multicultural voices, languages, and traditions in a manner that
13 promotes dialogue, pride, and understanding within our diverse
14 communities with the world; and

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16 WHEREAS, storytelling and literature strengthen civic
17 responsibility and civic engagement through promoting deep
18 thinking, increased empathy and understanding, and stronger
19 connections to ourselves and each other; and

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21 WHEREAS, the State of Hawaii is committed to the
22 preservation and advancement of culture, the arts, history, and
23 the humanities, especially literature and music; and

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25 WHEREAS, the United States of America provides for the
26 periodic appointment of a poet laureate by the Library of
27 Congress; and

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29 WHEREAS, the Hawaii Council for the Humanities, State
30 Foundation on Culture and the Arts, and Hawaii State Public
31 Library System have the qualifications and expertise to
32 establish a Hawaii State Poet Laureate Program to nurture and
33 connect the various cultures in Hawaii; now, therefore,



S.R. NO. 75

1 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first
2 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2022,
3 that the Hawaii Council for the Humanities, State Foundation on
4 Culture and the Arts, and Hawaii State Public Library System are
5 requested to collaborate for the purpose of establishing a
6 Hawaii State Poet Laureate Program, which may include:

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- 8 (1) The periodic appointment of a Hawaii poet laureate;
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 - 10 (2) The promotion of reading, writing, and appreciation of
11 poetry;
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 - 13 (3) Literary, cultural, and poetry workshops for students,
14 communities, and the people of Hawaii; and
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 - 16 (4) The gathering of writers, poets, storytellers,
17 musicians, and others representing the multi-ethnic
18 cultures of Hawaii to share their experiences and
19 creative works; and
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21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State Foundation on Culture
22 and the Arts is requested to submit a report of the
23 collaborative efforts initiated for the establishment of a
24 Hawaii State Poet Laureate Program, its findings,
25 recommendations, implementation plan, and any proposed
26 legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior
27 to the convening of the Regular Session of 2023; and

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29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
30 Resolution be transmitted to the Executive Director of the
31 Hawaii Council for the Humanities, Executive Director of the
32 State Foundation on Culture and the Arts, and State Librarian.

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35 OFFERED BY: 

