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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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REQUESTING THE OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS TO ESTABLISH AND  
PROVIDE LEGISLATIVE ENGAGEMENT FORUMS TO EDUCATE AND  
EMPOWER THE NATIVE HAWAIIAN COMMUNITY REGARDING THE  
LEGISLATIVE PROCESS.

1 WHEREAS, this body finds that the duties of the Office of  
2 Hawaiian Affairs include:

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- 4 (1) Advancing the betterment of conditions of Native  
5 Hawaiians;
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- 7 (2) Assessing the policies and practices of other agencies  
8 impacting Native Hawaiians;
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- 10 (3) Conducting advocacy efforts for Native Hawaiians; and
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- 12 (4) Serving as the principal public agency in the State  
13 responsible for the performance, development, and  
14 coordination of programs and activities relating to  
15 Native Hawaiians; and
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17 WHEREAS, the legislative process plays a crucial role in  
18 shaping policies and laws that directly impact the Native  
19 Hawaiian community; and

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21 WHEREAS, increasing resources and information on the  
22 legislative process available to the Native Hawaiian community  
23 will increase community engagement; and

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25 WHEREAS, increasing civic engagement and understanding of  
26 the legislative process empowers Native Hawaiians to advocate  
27 for their interests effectively; and

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1 WHEREAS, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs serves as a vital  
2 institution dedicated to improving the well-being of Native  
3 Hawaiians through advocacy, research, and community support; and  
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5 WHEREAS, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs has the resources  
6 and capacity to facilitate educational initiatives that promote  
7 greater awareness and participation in the legislative process;  
8 and  
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10 WHEREAS, legislative engagement forums will provide  
11 valuable opportunities for Native Hawaiians to learn about bill  
12 drafting, testimony submission, committee hearings, and other  
13 aspects of civic engagement; and  
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15 WHEREAS, legislative engagement forums may be conducted  
16 through in-person workshops, virtual seminars, and outreach  
17 efforts in various communities across the State; now, therefore,  
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19 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third  
20 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2025, the  
21 House of Representatives concurring, that the Office of Hawaiian  
22 Affairs is requested to establish and provide legislative  
23 engagement forums to educate and empower the Native Hawaiian  
24 community regarding the legislative process; and  
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26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Office of Hawaiian Affairs  
27 is encouraged to collaborate with community organizations,  
28 educational institutions, and legislative bodies to ensure the  
29 accessibility and effectiveness of these forums; and  
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31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that these legislative engagement  
32 forums should include educational materials, workshops, and  
33 mentorship opportunities that enable Native Hawaiians to  
34 effectively navigate the legislative process; and  
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36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Office of Hawaiian Affairs  
37 is urged to provide an annual report to the Legislature  
38 summarizing the activities, participation, and impact of these  
39 forums, as well as recommendations for further improvement; and  
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41 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Office of Hawaiian Affairs  
42 is requested to provide an annual report to the Legislature



1 concerning its activities, as it pertains to educational and  
2 communal engagement opportunities regarding legislative  
3 processes; and  
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5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Office of Hawaiian Affairs  
6 is urged to consider establishing an advisory group composed of  
7 Native Hawaiian leaders, educators, and policy experts to guide  
8 and enhance the effectiveness of these efforts; and  
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10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
11 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the  
12 Board of Trustees of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs and Chief  
13 Executive Officer of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs.

