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# HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE AUDITOR TO CONDUCT A FINANCIAL, PROGRAM, AND  
MANAGEMENT AUDIT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION'S HAWAIIAN  
STUDIES PROGRAM.

1           WHEREAS, section 4, article X of the Constitution of the  
2 State of Hawaii required the State to establish a Hawaiian  
3 education program in all public schools; and  
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5           WHEREAS, the Hawaiian studies programs in kindergarten  
6 through sixth grade help students develop an understanding and  
7 appreciation of Hawaiian culture, history, language, values, and  
8 practices; and  
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10           WHEREAS, Hawaiian studies programs include a component  
11 called kupuna, who are elders or "grandparents" and makua,  
12 "parents", who have expertise in Hawaiian cultural heritage and  
13 assist classroom teachers in Hawaiian studies instruction; and  
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15           WHEREAS, the program curriculum has become outdated and  
16 requires renewed support from the Department of Education to  
17 maintain its viability; and  
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19           WHEREAS, in response to the outdated curriculum and budget  
20 cuts, kupuna and makua have established the organization, Ka Lei  
21 Papahi o Kakuhihewa, dedicated to maintaining the integrity of  
22 Hawaiian studies programs and ensuring that Hawaiian studies  
23 programs remain a permanent part of the Department of  
24 Education's curriculum; and  
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26           WHEREAS, kupuna and makua spend a great deal of time  
27 preparing lesson plans for classes in Hawaiian studies programs  
28 without receiving compensation or reimbursement for classroom  
29 supplies purchased with their personal funds; and  
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1 WHEREAS, despite the efforts by kupuna and makua, many  
2 public elementary schools have terminated their Hawaiian studies  
3 program; and  
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5 WHEREAS, program closure is due in part to budget problems,  
6 including the inconsistent use of "A" and "B" budget funds; and  
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8 WHEREAS, there is evidence that some schools may be paying  
9 kupuna and makua instructors at the educational assistant rate,  
10 rather than the part-time teacher rate resulting in kupuna and  
11 makua receiving as much as fifty per cent less than they are  
12 rightfully entitled to; and  
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14 WHEREAS, a financial and program audit of the Department of  
15 Education's Hawaiian studies program would enhance public  
16 awareness of the program's budget and spending, thereby  
17 increasing transparency and accountability; now, therefore,  
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19 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
20 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
21 Session of 2007, the Senate concurring, that the Auditor is  
22 requested to conduct a financial audit of the Department of  
23 Education's Hawaiian studies programs, specifically with regard  
24 to kupuna, to clarify the numerous inconsistencies in budget and  
25 spending; and  
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27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Auditor is requested to  
28 review all moneys appropriated and expended for Hawaiian studies  
29 programs at both the Department of Education and individual  
30 school levels, including "A" funds for salary and "B" funds for  
31 all other expenditures; and  
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33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is  
34 requested to cooperate with and assist the Auditor in the  
35 performance of this audit; and  
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37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Auditor is requested to  
38 conduct a program and management audit of Hawaiian studies  
39 programs to identify any areas of concern regarding program  
40 delivery or implementation with specific regard to any  
41 inconsistencies in kupuna assignment, teaching schedules, and  
42 pay rates; and  
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Auditor is requested to  
2 submit a report of any audit findings and recommendations  
3 including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later  
4 than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session  
5 of 2008; and

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7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
8 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, the  
9 Chairperson of the Board of Education, the Superintendent of  
10 Education, and the Auditor.

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