

MAR 14 2007

---

# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

---

SUPPORTING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE MEDIUM  
EDUCATION PILOT PROGRAM.

1 WHEREAS, the Hawaiian language has a unique position in the  
2 historical and contemporary identity of the State of Hawaii; and  
3

4 WHEREAS, the Department of Education, the second oldest  
5 state public school system in the United States, was originally  
6 administered, operated, and taught through the Hawaiian language  
7 as a Hawaiian medium education system; and  
8

9 WHEREAS, during the nineteenth century, the Department of  
10 Education developed a system that provided for both Hawaiian  
11 medium and English medium education; and  
12

13 WHEREAS, it was typical for children of all ethnic  
14 backgrounds raised in Hawaii to speak the Hawaiian language; and  
15

16 WHEREAS, government statistics from the end of the  
17 nineteenth century show that the Department of Education,  
18 primarily through its Hawaiian medium education system, had  
19 produced among Hawaiian and part-Hawaiians the highest literacy  
20 rate of any ethnic group in Hawaii, including the Anglo-American  
21 ethnic group that had introduced writing to Hawaii less than a  
22 century earlier; and  
23

24 WHEREAS, literacy rates for Hawaiians and part-Hawaiians  
25 were higher than the literacy rates for Anglo-Americans in the  
26 United States at that time; and  
27

28 WHEREAS, Hawaiian medium education was prohibited by the  
29 federal government during the territorial period parallel to  
30 restrictions on the use of Native American languages in schools  
31 elsewhere in the United States; and  
32



1 WHEREAS, an outcome of the prohibition of Hawaiian medium  
2 education was the extermination of the Hawaiian language in  
3 younger generations of Native Hawaiians and other children born  
4 and raised in the State of Hawaii; and

5  
6 WHEREAS, another outcome of the prohibition of Hawaiian  
7 medium education was the destruction of a close correlation  
8 between island identity, and especially Native Hawaiian  
9 identity, with high educational achievement; and

10  
11 WHEREAS, the percentage of those of Hawaiian ancestry in  
12 1986 who were literate in any language was lower than the  
13 percentage of part-Hawaiians literate in both Hawaiian and  
14 English in 1896; and

15  
16 WHEREAS, upon statehood in 1959, the people of the new  
17 State of Hawaii chose the Hawaiian language to represent this  
18 State in its official state motto and other representations of  
19 the multiracial population of these islands; and

20  
21 WHEREAS, in 1978, the people of the State of Hawaii  
22 approved recognition of the Hawaiian language along with English  
23 as the official language of the State; and

24  
25 WHEREAS, in 1978, the people of the State of Hawaii  
26 approved requirements that the Hawaiian language be taught in  
27 state public schools; and

28  
29 WHEREAS, by the early 1980s, aspects of the Hawaiian  
30 language were taught in all public elementary schools and also  
31 as an elective in many state high schools; and

32  
33 WHEREAS, in 1984, the non-profit 'Aha Punana Leo began  
34 preschools that taught in the Hawaiian language; and

35  
36 WHEREAS, in 1986, the Legislature lifted the federally  
37 imposed ban on using the Hawaiian language in classrooms; and

38  
39 WHEREAS, in 1987 the Department of Education initiated the  
40 teaching of Hawaiian as a second language through the immersion  
41 method as a follow up program to Punana Leo preschools; and

42  
43 WHEREAS, in 1990, the United States Congress passed the  
44 Native American Languages Act introduced by Senator Daniel



1 Inouye that reversed the federal policy of eliminating all  
2 Native American languages, including Hawaiian; and  
3

4 WHEREAS, in 1997, the Legislature passed legislation  
5 establishing a Hawaiian language college to be operated,  
6 administered, and taught through the Hawaiian language with  
7 programming from preschool through the doctorate level of  
8 education; and  
9

10 WHEREAS, by the end of the twentieth century, Hawaii was by  
11 far the national leader in the teaching of its indigenous  
12 language as a second language in its English medium school  
13 system, through various methodologies including second language  
14 immersion; and  
15

16 WHEREAS, by the early twenty-first century, the Hawaiian  
17 language college working in collaboration with the Department of  
18 Education and the 'Aha Punana Leo had demonstrated in its  
19 laboratory school program that students in contemporary Hawaii  
20 could attend a school operated, administered, and taught  
21 entirely in Hawaiian and achieve academic success parallel to  
22 that achieved by the Department of Education in the nineteenth  
23 century; and  
24

25 WHEREAS, accomplishments of Hawaiian language schools  
26 include a one hundred per cent high school graduation rate; an  
27 eighty per cent college attendance rate; graduates enrolled in  
28 programs at Stanford and Harvard universities; study of  
29 Japanese, Latin, and English in classes conducted through  
30 Hawaiian; and inclusion of students of non-Native Hawaiian as  
31 well as Native Hawaiian ancestry, with an overall student  
32 profile of approximately sixty per cent free and reduced lunch  
33 status; and  
34

35 WHEREAS, the Legislature enacted Act 133, Session Laws of  
36 Hawaii 2004, providing for the reestablishment of a Hawaiian  
37 language medium education system that would reestablish within  
38 the Department of Education a system of Hawaiian language medium  
39 education that is operated, administered, and taught through the  
40 Hawaiian language in collaboration with the Hawaiian language  
41 college; and  
42



1 WHEREAS, the Department of Education has been working with  
2 the Hawaiian language college and the 'Aha Punana Leo for the  
3 past three years in developing a plan for P-20 (preschool to  
4 graduate school) Hawaiian language medium education; and  
5

6 WHEREAS, the National Indian Education Association will be  
7 holding its annual conference in Honolulu in October 2007, with  
8 a special focus on Native American language teaching and use in  
9 the schools; now, therefore,  
10

11 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth  
12 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2007, the  
13 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of  
14 Education is congratulated on its national leadership in Native  
15 American language teaching as a foreign language through various  
16 methodologies including language immersion; and  
17

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Department of Education,  
19 'Aha Punana Leo, and Ka Haka 'Ula O Ke'elikolani, the State's  
20 Hawaiian language college located on the University of Hawaii  
21 campus, are congratulated on cooperatively developing a P-20  
22 Hawaiian language medium education model with an especially  
23 strong P-20 Hawaiian language medium education model at  
24 Nawahiokalani'opu'u School; and  
25

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Department of Education,  
27 'Aha Punana Leo, and Ka Haka 'Ula O Ke'elikolani are requested  
28 to work together to officially implement a pilot program to  
29 further the goals of Act 133, Session Laws of Hawaii 2004, and  
30 build upon their pioneering work at Nawahiokalani'opu'u School;  
31 and  
32

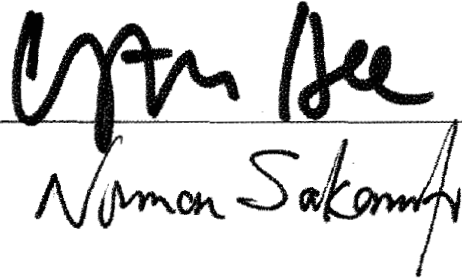
33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Department of Education,  
34 'Aha Punana Leo, and Ka Haka 'Ula O Ke'elikolani are requested  
35 to implement the pilot program by September of 2007; and  
36

37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Department of Education,  
38 'Aha Punana Leo, and Ka Haka 'Ula O Ke'elikolani are requested  
39 to share the history and current status of Hawaiian language  
40 medium education at the 2007 annual conference of the National  
41 Indian Education Conference to be held in Honolulu; and  
42



1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that certified copies of this  
2 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Superintendent of  
3 Education, the Director of 'Aha Punana Leo, and the Director of  
4 the State's Hawaiian language college, Ka Haka 'Ula O  
5 Ke'elikolani at the University of Hawaii at Hilo.

6  
7  
8 OFFERED BY:

  
Norman Sakomaha

