

MAR 14 2007

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE AUDITOR TO CONDUCT A FINANCIAL AND PROGRAM 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
4

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
9

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
14

15 WHEREAS, the program curriculum has become outdated and
16 requires renewed support from the Department of Education to
17 maintain its viability; and
18

19 WHEREAS, in response to the outdated curriculum and budget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
25

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
30

31 WHEREAS, despite the efforts by kupuna and makua, many
32 public elementary schools have terminated their Hawaiian studies
33 program; and



1
2 WHEREAS, program closure is due in part to budget problems,
3 including the inconsistent use of "A" and "B" budget funds; and
4

5 WHEREAS, there is evidence that some schools may be paying
6 kupuna and makua instructors at the educational assistant rate,
7 rather than the part-time teacher rate resulting in kupuna and
8 makua receiving as much as fifty per cent less than they are
9 rightfully entitled to; and
10

11 WHEREAS, a financial and program audit of the Department of
12 Education's Hawaiian studies program would enhance public
13 awareness of the program's budget and spending, thereby
14 increasing transparency and accountability; now, therefore,
15

16 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth
17 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2007, the
18 House of Representatives concurring, that the Auditor is
19 requested to conduct a financial audit of the Department of
20 Education's Hawaiian studies programs, specifically with regard
21 to kupuna, to clarify the numerous inconsistencies in budget and
22 spending; and
23

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Auditor is requested to
25 review all moneys appropriated and expended for Hawaiian studies
26 programs at both the Department of Education and individual
27 school levels, including "A" funds for salary and "B" funds for
28 all other expenditures; and
29

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is
31 requested to cooperate with and assist the Auditor in the
32 performance of this audit; and
33

34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Auditor is requested to
35 conduct a program audit of Hawaiian studies programs to identify
36 any areas of concern regarding program delivery or
37 implementation with specific regard to any inconsistencies in
38 kupuna assignment, teaching schedules, and pay rates; and
39

40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Auditor is requested to
41 submit a report of any audit findings and recommendations
42 including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later
43 than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session
44 of 2008; and

1
2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
3 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, the
4 Chairperson of the Board of Education, the Superintendent of
5 Education, and the Auditor.

6
7
8

OFFERED BY: Norman Sakonys