SENATE 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
9
10   WHEREAS, Hawaiian studies programs include a component for
11 kupuna, who are elders or "grandparents" and makua, "parents,"
12 who have expertise in Hawaiian cultural heritage and assist
13 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15   WHEREAS, the program curriculum has become outdated and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19   WHEREAS, in response to the outdated curriculum and budget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
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
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1   WHEREAS, despite the efforts by kupuna and makua, many
2 public elementary schools have terminated their Hawaiian studies
3 programs; and
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5   WHEREAS, program closure is due in part to budget problems,
6 including the inconsistent use of "A" (general) and "B"
7 (special) budget funds; and
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9   WHEREAS, there is evidence that some schools may be paying
10 kupuna and makua instructors at the educational assistant rate,
11 rather than the part-time teacher rate resulting in kupuna and
12 makua receiving as much as fifty per cent less than that to
13 which they are rightfully entitled; and
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15   WHEREAS, a financial, program, and management audit of the
16 Department of Education's Hawaiian studies program would enhance
17 public awareness of the program's budget and spending, thereby
18 increasing transparency and accountability; now, therefore,
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20   BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth
21 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2007, the
22 House of Representatives concurring, that the Auditor is
23 requested to conduct a financial audit of the Department of
24 Education's Hawaiian studies programs, specifically with regard
25 to kupuna, to clarify the numerous inconsistencies in budgeting
26 and spending; and
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28   BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that as part of the financial audit,
29 the Auditor is requested to review all moneys appropriated and
30 expended for Hawaiian studies programs at both the Department of
31 Education and individual school levels, including "A" funds for
32 salary and "B" funds for all other expenditures; and
33
34   BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Auditor is requested to
35 conduct a program and management audit to identify any areas of
36 concern regarding program delivery or implementation with
37 specific regard to any inconsistencies in kupuna or makua
38 assignments, teaching schedules, and pay rates; and
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40   BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is
41 requested to cooperate with and assist the Auditor in the
42 performance of this audit; and
43

S.C.R. NO. 74 S.D. 1

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.