

MAR 14 2007

SENATE 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
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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
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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
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13 WHEREAS, it was typical for children of all ethnic
14 backgrounds raised in Hawaii to speak the Hawaiian language; and
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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
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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
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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
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33 WHEREAS, an outcome of the prohibition of Hawaiian medium
34 education was the extermination of the Hawaiian language in
35 younger generations of Native Hawaiians and other children born
36 and raised in the State of Hawaii; and



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, in 1990, the United States Congress passed the Native American Languages Act introduced by Senator Daniel Inouye that reversed the federal policy of eliminating all Native American languages, including Hawaiian; and

WHEREAS, in 1997, the Legislature passed legislation



1 establishing a Hawaiian language college to be operated,
2 administered, and taught through the Hawaiian language with
3 programming from preschool through the doctorate level of
4 education; and

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6 WHEREAS, by the end of the twentieth century, Hawaii was by
7 far the national leader in the teaching of its indigenous
8 language as a second language in its English medium school
9 system, through various methodologies including second language
10 immersion; and

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

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

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

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

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44 WHEREAS, the National Indian Education Association will be
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1 holding its annual conference in Honolulu in October 2007, with
2 a special focus on Native American language teaching and use in
3 the schools; now, therefore,

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5 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth
6 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2007,
7 that the Department of Education is congratulated on its
8 national leadership in Native American language teaching as a
9 foreign language through various methodologies including
10 language immersion; and

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

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20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Department of Education,
21 'Aha Punana Leo, and Ka Haka 'Ula O Ke'elikolani are requested
22 to work together to officially implement a pilot program to
23 further the goals of Act 133, Session Laws of Hawaii 2004, and
24 build upon their pioneering work at Nawahiokalani'opu'u School;
25 and

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

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31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Department of Education,
32 'Aha Punana Leo, and Ka Haka 'Ula O Ke'elikolani are requested
33 to share the history and current status of Hawaiian language
34 medium education at the 2007 annual conference of the National
35 Indian Education Conference to be held in Honolulu; and
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that certified copies of this
2 Resolution be transmitted to the Superintendent of Education,
3 the Director of 'Aha Punana Leo, and the Director of the State's
4 Hawaiian language college, Ka Haka 'Ula O Ke'elikolani at the
5 University of Hawaii at Hilo.

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OFFERED BY:

Norman Sakamoto
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