

MAR 10 2017

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO ESTABLISH A TASK FORCE
TO LOCATE POTENTIAL, VIABLE PROPERTIES ALONG THE WAI'ANAE
COAST ON WHICH TO ESTABLISH A HAWAIIAN-LANGUAGE IMMERSION
SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS FROM KINDERGARTEN TO GRADE 12.

1 WHEREAS, kupuna in the Nānākuli ahupua'a have been striving
2 to reestablish their children and grandchildren's cultural
3 identity through the Hawaiian language since the 1960s; and
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5 WHEREAS, despite the growth of Hawaiian-language immersion
6 schools in other areas of the state, the creation of a Hawaiian
7 studies curriculum within the Department of Education, and the
8 establishment of a Hawaiian studies program at the University of
9 Hawaii, the Nānākuli community continues to lack a Hawaiian-
10 language immersion school from kindergarten to grade 12; and
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12 WHEREAS, the Nānākuli ahupua'a has been home to the highest
13 concentration of Hawaiians in the world for over 50 years, and
14 children from the Wai'anae Coast constitute a significant portion
15 of the student population at Hawaiian-language immersion schools
16 in other areas of the state; and
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18 WHEREAS, Pūnana Leo o Wai'anae serves students in pre-
19 kindergarten and kindergarten, while Ke Kula Kaiapuni 'o Nānākuli
20 serves students from kindergarten through grade six; and
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22 WHEREAS, however, Ke Kula Kaiapuni 'o Nānākuli has
23 experienced a decline in enrollment because parents prefer to
24 enroll their children in an immersion school that serves
25 students from kindergarten through grade 12; and
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27 WHEREAS, as a result, many students have transferred to
28 Hawaiian-language immersion schools in other school districts,
29 including Ke Kula Kaiapuni 'O Ānuenue in the Honolulu School
30 District; and



1 WHEREAS, a high percentage of students who reside in the
2 Leeward School District are being transported via school bus to
3 immersion schools in other areas, which raises costs for both
4 parents and the Department of Education; now, therefore,
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6 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-ninth
7 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2017,
8 that the Department of Education is requested to establish a
9 task force to locate potential, viable properties along the
10 Wai'anae coast, with a preference for a location in Mā'ili, on
11 which to establish a Hawaiian-language immersion school to
12 educate students from kindergarten through grade 12; and
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14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force should consist
15 of the following members:
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- 17 (1) The Superintendent of Education, or the
18 Superintendent's designee;
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- 20 (2) The Executive Director of the State Public Charter
21 School Commission, or the Executive Director's
22 designee;
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- 24 (3) The Chairperson of the Hawaiian Homes Commission, or
25 the Chairperson's designee;
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- 27 (4) The Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural
28 Resources, or the Chairperson's designee;
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- 30 (5) The Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of the Office
31 of Hawaiian Affairs, or the Chairperson's designee;
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- 33 (6) The Mayor of the City and County of Honolulu, or the
34 Mayor's designee; and
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- 36 (7) Members representing the community and stakeholders;
37 and
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39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Superintendent of
40 Education, or the Superintendent's designee, should serve as the
41 chairperson of the task force; and



1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that no member should be subject to
2 Chapter 84, Hawaii Revised Statutes, solely because of that
3 member's participation as a member of the task force; and
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5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to
6 submit a report of its findings and recommendations, including
7 any proposed legislation, to the Legislature at least 30 days
8 prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2019; and
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10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
11 Resolution be transmitted to the Superintendent of Education,
12 Executive Director of the State Public Charter School
13 Commission, Chairperson of the Hawaiian Homes Commission,
14 Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of the Office of Hawaiian
15 Affairs, and Mayor of the City and County of Honolulu.
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OFFERED BY:



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