
HOUSE RESOLUTION

URGING THE OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS, DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION,
AND COMMITTEE ON WEIGHTS TO COLLABORATE AND ALLOCATE OFFICE
OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS' FUNDS TO THE WEIGHTED STUDENT FORMULA
TO BENEFIT NATIVE HAWAIIAN STUDENTS IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

1 WHEREAS, according to an April 2017 report by the Office of
2 Hawaiian Affairs Research Division (OHA Report), Native
3 Hawaiians scoring disproportionately lower than non-Hawaiians on
4 standardized tests was documented as early as 1983; and
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6 WHEREAS, Smarter Balanced Assessments (SBA), administered
7 at the end of each school year to Department of Education and
8 public charter school students in grades 3 to 8 and 11, indicate
9 that a smaller percentage of Native Hawaiian students than non-
10 Hawaiian students are proficient in both mathematics and English
11 language arts/literacy, and SBA test results for School Year
12 2015 indicate:
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14 (1) 28.4 percent of Native Hawaiian students tested
15 proficient in math compared to 46.8 percent of non-
16 Hawaiian students, a difference of 18.4 percentage
17 points; and
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19 (2) 34.8 percent of Native Hawaiian students tested
20 proficient in reading compared to 54.3 percent of non-
21 Hawaiian students, a difference of 19.5 percentage
22 points; and
23

24 WHEREAS, the OHA Report states that studies suggest that
25 teacher impact is the most significant school factor
26 contributing to a student's success; however, the Hawaii State
27 Teachers Association indicates that Native Hawaiian public
28 school students are more likely to have inexperienced,
29 unqualified, and out-of-field teachers; and



1 WHEREAS, in School Year 2015, Native Hawaiian students
2 represented 26 percent of the total public school system K-12
3 student population; however, only 9.9 percent of classroom
4 teachers were Native Hawaiian; and

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6 WHEREAS, a May 2007 Public Education Brief by Kamehameha
7 Schools Research & Evaluation Division recommended that
8 "providing resources and services through literacy enhancement
9 programs, tutorial assistance, and mentoring and tutoring
10 programs, can begin to offset the economic disadvantages that
11 many Hawaiian children face"; and

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13 WHEREAS, appropriating and allocating greater resources to
14 Hawaii's public schools will enhance student learning and the
15 educational outcomes of Native Hawaiian students; and

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17 WHEREAS, under the Weighted Student Formula, additional
18 money is given to educate students with identified
19 characteristics that impact student learning and achievement,
20 such as student characteristics for Gifted & Talented,
21 Economically Disadvantaged, Limited English Proficiency, and
22 Transiency; however, the Weighted Student Formula does not
23 include a student characteristic for Native Hawaiian students;
24 and

25
26 WHEREAS, having a Weighted Student Formula student
27 characteristic for Native Hawaiian students will provide
28 additional necessary supports and resources for the education of
29 Native Hawaiian students; and

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31 WHEREAS, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs has focused its
32 efforts on significantly raising the number of Native Hawaiian
33 students who at least meet achievement standards in middle
34 school as well as high school, and increasing the number of
35 Native Hawaiian students who graduate from post-secondary
36 institutions by 12 percent; and

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38 WHEREAS, to meet these goals, the Office of Hawaiian
39 Affairs has allocated funds toward college tuition scholarships
40 and Native Hawaiian charter schools; and



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1 WHEREAS, the allocation of Office of Hawaiian Affairs funds
 2 to support Native Hawaiian students in public schools through
 3 the Weighted Student Formula will improve student achievement
 4 and outcomes for Native Hawaiian students and strengthen the
 5 services and programs provided to these students at the schools
 6 they attend; now, therefore,

7
 8 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
 9 Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
 10 of 2018, that the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, Department of
 11 Education, and Committee on Weights are urged to collaborate and
 12 allocate Office of Hawaiian Affairs' funds to the Weighted
 13 Student Formula to benefit Native Hawaiian students in public
 14 schools; and

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 16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 17 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of
 18 Education, the Superintendent, the Chairperson of the Office of
 19 Hawaiian Affairs Board of Trustees, and the Chairperson of the
 20 Committee on Weights.

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 23 OFFERED BY:

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