S.C.R. NO. 71

MAR 0 8 2018

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO CREATE A MASTER PLAN FOR A PARCEL IN THE NĀNĀKULI-WAI'ANAE COMPLEX AREA THAT WOULD INCLUDE AN ALTERNATIVE LEARNING CENTER AND OTHER FEATURES.

WHEREAS, schools in the Nānākuli-Wai'anae complex area have consistently ranked among the lowest performing schools in the State; and

WHEREAS, from 2009 to 2013, the Nānākuli-Wai'anae complex area participated in the Zones of School Innovation project, which aimed to improve "priority schools", the lowest-performing schools in the State; and

WHEREAS, the Zones of School Innovation project targeted specific areas that served the largest population of native Hawaiian and economically-disadvantaged students in the State; and

WHEREAS, seven out of ten students in the Nānākuli-Wai'anae complex area are economically-disadvantaged and fall well below the state and national averages for educational attainment; and

WHEREAS, S.B. No. 2393 (Regular Session of 2018) requires the Department of Education (Department) to establish a comprehensive plan to establish alternative learning centers in each school complex area in the State; and

WHEREAS, the Department owns vacant lands situated between Wai'anae High School and Wai'anae Boat Harbor, identified as tax map key 850020110000; and

WHEREAS, Department officials have expressed support for creating a master plan for the aforementioned parcel, which would feature an alternative learning center, storefront, marine

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science learning center, pool, cultural learning park, and other features; and

WHEREAS, Pu'uhonua o Wai'anae is, for the most part, situated adjacent to the Department's parcel on state lands; and

WHEREAS, Pu'uhonua o Wai'anae started as a houseless encampment and has become a non-profit organization; and

WHEREAS, Pu'uhonua o Wai'anae has served and continues to compassionately serve those facing a lack of adequate housing and has gained the support of many, including the State Legislature, which honored Pu'uhonua o Wai'anae leader, Twinkle Borge, with a floor presentation in 2017; and

WHEREAS, the State and other organizations continue to assist Pu'uhonua o Wai'anae in its mission, and the Department's master plan for its land is not intended to threaten Pu'uhonua o Wai'anae, but rather to focus on the educational needs of students in the Nānākuli-Wai'anae complex area; and

WHEREAS, the State constructed a halau wa'a (canoe house) on the makai (ocean side) end of the aforementioned parcel, and the non-profit E Ala Voyaging Academy holds a state lease for the halau wa'a; and

WHEREAS, E Ala Voyaging Academy is seeking to renew its partnership with the Department in the near future and can play a key role in attracting possible at-risk students who would enroll in an alternative learning center; and

WHEREAS, the State awarded funds to the non-profit Na Kama Kai, which seeks to run an ocean education program at the Herbert K. Pililaau Army Recreation Center, located near the aforementioned parcel; and

WHEREAS, Na Kama Kai has participated in discussions with Department officials regarding the need for an alternative learning center in the Nānākuli-Wai'anae complex area and a possible collaboration between the Department and Na Kama Kai; and

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WHEREAS, Na Kama Kai has partnered with the Department on various ocean safety and education initiatives and seeks to continue and further broaden its partnership with the Department; and

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WHEREAS, there are a variety of other organizations that the Department or Superintendent of Education may identify who can support the effort to establish an alternative learning center; now, therefore,

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BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2018, the House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of Education is requested to create a master plan for the parcel identified as tax map key 850020110000, which would include an alternative learning center and may also include a storefront, marine science learning center, pool, cultural learning park, and other features; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department is requested to complete the construction of the alternative learning center and other features for the Nānākuli-Wai'anae complex area on the aforementioned parcel of land by the 2023-2024 school year; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Superintendent of Education, who, in turn, is requested to transmit a copy to any other organization that the Superintendent or Department of Education determines to be pertinent in supporting the creation of an alternative learning center; Principal of Nānākuli High and Intermediate School; Principal of Wai'anae Intermediate School; Principal of Wai'anae High School; E Ala Voyaging Academy; Herbert K. Pililaau Army Recreation Center; Chief Executive Officer of Na Kama Kai; and Pu'uhonua o Wai'anae Village Leader.

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