
HOUSE RESOLUTION

URGING THE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO
ELEVATE HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE AND CULTURAL EDUCATION IN PUBLIC
HIGH SCHOOLS BY EXPANDING ACCESS TO HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE AND
CULTURAL CLASSES THAT FULFILL CORE REQUIREMENTS THROUGHOUT
SECONDARY EDUCATION.

1 WHEREAS, article X, section 1, of the Hawaii State
2 Constitution provides for the establishment of a statewide
3 system of public schools; and
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5 WHEREAS, article X, section 4, of the Hawaii State
6 Constitution requires that the "State shall promote the study of
7 Hawaiian culture, history, and language" and "provide for a
8 Hawaiian education program consisting of language, culture, and
9 history in the public schools"; and
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11 WHEREAS, article XV, section 4, of the Hawaii State
12 Constitution recognizes Hawaiian as an official language of the
13 State; and
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15 WHEREAS, in 2019, the Hawaii Supreme Court held in
16 *Clarabal v. Dep't of Educ.*, 145 Hawaii 69 (2019), that the
17 framers of the Hawaii State Constitution intended article X,
18 section 4, to require the State to "provide a Hawaiian education
19 program in public schools that is reasonably calculated to
20 revive and preserve 'ōlelo Hawai'i"; and
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22 WHEREAS, Chief Justice Recktenwald noted in his concurring
23 opinion in the *Clarabal* case that, "the framers emphasized the
24 importance of reviving 'ōlelo Hawai'i through the public
25 education system, in order to ensure that all children of the
26 State of Hawai'i have exposure to Hawaiian language, culture and
27 history"; and
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29 WHEREAS, native Hawaiian students represent the single
30 largest ethnic group in the State's public schools, at



1 twenty-six percent of the student population, and deserve a
2 curriculum that is attentive to the perpetuation of their
3 culture and identity; and
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5 WHEREAS, Hawaiian education benefits students of all ethnic
6 backgrounds by contributing to an understanding and appreciation
7 of Hawaii's unique cultural and historical context; and
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9 WHEREAS, Hawaiian education perpetuates the skills,
10 knowledge, values, and practices of the native people of Hawaii
11 and offers innovative and place-based responses to the demands
12 of a rapidly changing world; and
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14 WHEREAS, embracing an educational philosophy that honors
15 and promotes a native Hawaiian perspective can foster
16 multilingualism, multiculturalism, educational experience, and
17 whole-child development; and
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19 WHEREAS, the 0.5 credit Modern Hawaiian History class is
20 currently the only core curriculum requirement at the high
21 school level dedicated to addressing article X, section 4, of
22 the Hawaii State Constitution; and
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24 WHEREAS, the 1997 Hawaii State Legislature mandated the
25 establishment of a Hawaiian language college on the University
26 of Hawaii campus to "...serve as a focal point for the State's
27 efforts to revitalize the Hawaiian language..."; and
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29 WHEREAS, within the limitations imposed upon it by its
30 mandated resource base and structure, the Hawaiian language
31 college has a strong record of innovation and leadership in
32 Hawaiian language and culture education which has drawn national
33 attention and which has provided considerable support to State
34 Hawaiian education efforts in Department of Education and
35 Charter schools; and
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37 WHEREAS, high school student participants in the
38 Twenty-Seventh Annual Children and Youth Summit identified the
39 elevation of diverse Hawaiian education courses in public
40 schools as a priority for young people in Hawaii; now,
41 therefore,
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1 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
2 Thirty-first Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
3 of 2021, that the Board of Education and Department of Education
4 are urged to elevate Hawaiian language and cultural education in
5 public high schools by expanding access to Hawaiian language and
6 cultural classes that fulfill core requirements throughout
7 secondary education; and
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9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education's
10 Office of Hawaiian Education is requested to identify public
11 school teachers who have received or would like to receive
12 training in Hawaiian language and culture to increase access to
13 Hawaiian content in secondary schools; and
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15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education work in
16 partnership with the administration of the Hawaiian language
17 college to identify existing resources for Hawaiian language and
18 culture education for students in public and charter schools and
19 to integrate these resources into its teacher training for said
20 identified public school teachers; and
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22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education and
23 Hawaiian language college submit their findings in the form of a
24 report to the 2022 legislature one week before opening of the
25 2022 session; and
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27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
28 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Lieutenant Governor,
29 Chairperson of the Board of Education, Chancellor of the
30 University of Hawaii at Hilo, and Superintendent of Education.
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