
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE HAWAII COUNCIL FOR THE HUMANITIES, STATE
FOUNDATION ON CULTURE AND THE ARTS, AND THE HAWAII STATE
PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM TO COLLABORATE FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT
OF A HAWAII STATE POET LAUREATE PROGRAM.

1 WHEREAS, Hawaii has a rich and diverse culture that melds
2 the customs, art, history, traditions, and music of Native
3 Hawaiians and the many peoples that comprise the community that
4 is Hawaii; and

5
6 WHEREAS, this unique culture is expressed in the mele, oli,
7 and mo'olelo of the Hawaiian people, and the literature, music,
8 and traditions of the various peoples that have settled in
9 Hawaii; and

10
11 WHEREAS, literature and poetry are a way to blend the
12 multicultural voices, languages, and traditions in a manner that
13 promotes dialogue, pride, and understanding within our diverse
14 communities with the world; and

15
16 WHEREAS, storytelling and literature strengthen civic
17 responsibility and civic engagement through promoting deep
18 thinking, increased empathy and understanding, and stronger
19 connections to ourselves and each other; and

20
21 WHEREAS, the State of Hawaii is committed to the
22 preservation and advancement of culture, the arts, history, and
23 the humanities, especially literature and music; and

24
25 WHEREAS, the United States of America provides for the
26 periodic appointment of a poet laureate by the Library of
27 Congress; and

28
29 WHEREAS, the Hawaii Council for the Humanities, State
30 Foundation on Culture and the Arts, and Hawaii State Public
31 Library System have the qualifications and expertise to



1 establish a Hawaii State Poet Laureate Program to nurture and
2 connect the various cultures in Hawaii; now, therefore,
3

4 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
5 Thirty-first Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
6 of 2022, the Senate concurring, that the Hawaii Council for the
7 Humanities, State Foundation on Culture and the Arts, and Hawaii
8 State Public Library System are requested to collaborate for the
9 purpose of establishing a Hawaii State Poet Laureate Program,
10 which may include:
11

- 12 (1) The periodic appointment of a Hawaii poet laureate;
13
- 14 (2) The promotion of reading, writing, and appreciation of
15 poetry;
16
- 17 (3) Literary, cultural, and poetry workshops for students,
18 communities, and the people of Hawaii; and
19
- 20 (4) The gathering of writers, poets, storytellers,
21 musicians, and others representing the multi-ethnic
22 cultures of Hawaii to share their experiences and
23 creative works; and
24

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State Foundation on Culture
26 and the Arts is requested to submit a report of the
27 collaborative efforts initiated for the establishment of a
28 Hawaii State Poet Laureate Program, its findings,
29 recommendations, implementation plan, and any proposed
30 legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior
31 to the convening of the Regular Session of 2023; and
32

33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
34 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Executive Director
35 of the Hawaii Council for the Humanities, Executive Director of
36 the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts, and State
37 Librarian.
38
39
40

OFFERED BY: 

MAR 11 2022

