

MAR 11 2022

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII TO REPORT ON THE PAMANTASAN
COUNCIL'S SYSTEMWIDE EFFORTS TO IMPROVE THE STATUS OF
FILIPINOS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII.

1 WHEREAS, Filipinos represent one-quarter of Hawaii's
2 population, the second largest ethnic group in the State, the
3 largest ethnicity in public schools, the third largest in
4 community colleges, and the fourth largest at four-year
5 campuses; and

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7 WHEREAS, Filipino student representation and academic
8 performance has increased at all University of Hawaii campuses
9 and are adequately represented at the community colleges, but
10 Filipino student representation has seen a decline in transfer
11 rates to four-year campuses; and

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13 WHEREAS, while Filipino student representation at the
14 University of Hawaii at Manoa has increased, Filipino students
15 continue to be underrepresented at the undergraduate level and
16 are significantly underrepresented in graduate and professional
17 degree programs; and

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19 WHEREAS, Filipino faculty are underrepresented at all
20 University of Hawaii campuses as many faculty members are in
21 temporary positions while critical, permanent faculty positions
22 remain unfilled; and

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24 WHEREAS, some Filipino faculty at University of Hawaii
25 campuses provided leadership and service to the State and the
26 Filipino community, which experienced one of the highest
27 percentages of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) cases and
28 deaths; and

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30 WHEREAS, there are few Filipino-related courses such as
31 Philippine languages, Philippine studies, and Filipinos in
32 Hawaii offered at University of Hawaii campuses; and



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2 WHEREAS, the state-funded University of Hawaii System is
3 responsible for teaching, research, and community service;
4 additional programming to increase curriculum content; and
5 improvements to representation and success of Filipino faculty
6 and staff, which may also lead to an increase in the number of
7 University of Hawaii graduates of Filipino descent who can join
8 Hawaii's educated workforce and become active citizens in the
9 State; and

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11 WHEREAS, the University of Hawaii Pamantasan Council,
12 utilizing the Filipino word for "higher education", was formed
13 in 1987 to review the status of Filipinos at the University of
14 Hawaii; and

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16 WHEREAS, the Pamantasan Council has held the annual
17 Pamantasan Conferences, organized activities, and developed
18 recommendations to increase representation of students, faculty,
19 staff, and curriculum of the Filipino community; and

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21 WHEREAS, the Legislature adopted Act 266, Session Laws of
22 Hawaii 2019, to appropriate funds for two full-time equivalent
23 (2.0 FTE) positions for the University of Hawaii Pamantasan
24 Council to assist the State and the University of Hawaii in
25 meeting strategic goals for access, diversity, and workforce
26 development; and

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28 WHEREAS, despite the Governor's approval of the
29 appropriation, the COVID-19 pandemic and resulting budget
30 restrictions prevented the hiring of two positions for the
31 Pamantasan Council; and

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33 WHEREAS, funds approved for the Pamantasan Council are now
34 utilized to temporarily support a University of Hawaii Maui
35 College lecturer to teach distance education Ilokano courses and
36 for curriculum development of a community college-level
37 certificate in Filipino Studies and coordination with the
38 University of Hawaii at Manoa's Ethnic Studies Department for
39 course development; now, therefore,

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41 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first
42 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2022, the



S.C.R. NO. 132

1 House of Representatives concurring, that the University of
2 Hawaii is requested to report on the Pamantasan Council's
3 systemwide efforts to improve the status of Filipinos at the
4 University of Hawaii; and

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6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the report is requested to
7 include information regarding the 2019 appropriation; resource
8 and budgetary needs; recommendations on curriculum development;
9 and representation and success of students, faculty, and staff;
10 and

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12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the University of Hawaii is
13 requested to submit a report of its findings and
14 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the
15 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
16 the Regular Session of 2023; and

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18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
19 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of the
20 University of Hawaii.

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OFFERED BY:

