
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO
INTEGRATE THE DOCUMENTARY FILM "WATERMAN" INTO MIDDLE AND
INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL CURRICULUM.

1 WHEREAS, the people of Hawaii descend from a long and
2 storied path of heroes who embody strength, courage, integrity,
3 determination, and humility; and
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5 WHEREAS, many of these heroes in the stories of old Hawaii
6 survived tremendous trials by adhering to long-held values of
7 aloha, perseverance, and teamwork; and
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9 WHEREAS, the youth of today have become increasingly
10 unfamiliar with these lessons as they drift farther from the
11 ancient stories and traditional storylines of what qualities
12 enhance the intrinsic values of ohana (family) and hard work,
13 upon both of which they should model their behavior; and
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15 WHEREAS, youth in Hawaii have been inundated with modern
16 distractions such as social media, smartphones, and drug use,
17 and these distractions affect their physical and mental health,
18 causing a shift in whom they idolize and admire; and
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20 WHEREAS, behavioralists and mental health therapists
21 recognize that in their most impressionable ages, children often
22 model their goals and behaviors after those they most admire;
23 and
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25 WHEREAS, a contemporary Hawaiian legend, Duke Paoa Kahinu
26 Mokoe Hulikohola Kahanamoku, who was a five-time Olympic
27 medalist in swimming, a pioneer in surfing, and the true
28 Hawaiian ambassador of aloha was also a role model from which
29 children should derive value; and
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1 WHEREAS, an extremely engaging documentary film entitled
2 "Waterman" highlights the life, times, and challenges of Duke
3 Kahanamoku as a young Native Hawaiian immersed in the western
4 world while faithfully retaining his qualities of aloha; and
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6 WHEREAS, "Waterman" was recently showcased to an audience
7 of legislators, community leaders, and school officials in hopes
8 that they could recognize the intrinsic value of the documentary
9 in shaping the perspectives, values, and goals of children; and
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11 WHEREAS, "Waterman" was received with an overwhelmingly
12 positive response and it was determined that the movie's
13 efficacy to affect positive change might best be impactful in
14 the years encompassing middle and intermediate school; and
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16 WHEREAS, producers David Ulich and Dr. Steven Ungerleider
17 of Sidewinder Films have agreed to allow free access to
18 "Waterman" in hopes that it could be broadly integrated into the
19 middle and intermediate school curriculum and shown
20 comprehensively to students as a coordinated effort to improve
21 the local self-perception, self-esteem, self-worth, and self-
22 respect of children throughout Hawaii; now therefore,
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24 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
25 Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
26 Session of 2023, the Senate concurring, that the Board of
27 Education and Department of Education are urged to integrate
28 into the middle and intermediate school curriculum a component
29 that involves the "Waterman" film to help provide a strong role
30 model for a population of children who have so few heroes to
31 embrace; and
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33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is
34 urged to coordinate with the necessary agencies and stakeholders
35 to provide free access to the documentary in a format that is
36 accessible to each school; and
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38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
39 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the
40 Board of Education and Superintendent of Education.

