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# HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO PRIORITIZE FUNDING FOR THE ENGLISH LEARNER PROGRAM IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS TO ADDRESS THE INCREASING POPULATION OF ENGLISH LEARNER STUDENTS.

1           WHEREAS, the Department of Education's English Learner  
2 Program ensures that students with limited English proficiency:

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4           (1) Have access to educational opportunities by providing  
5 services to assist with the attainment of English  
6 language proficiency;

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8           (2) Develop high levels of academic attainment in English;  
9 and

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11           (3) Meet the same challenging state academic content and  
12 student achievement standards all students are  
13 expected to meet; and  
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15           WHEREAS, dedicated English language development  
16 instruction, sheltered instruction throughout the curriculum,  
17 and acculturation activities are important services under the  
18 English Learner Program; and  
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20           WHEREAS, the English Learner Program supports the  
21 Department of Education's mission to provide standards-based  
22 education; and  
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24           WHEREAS, the services provided through the English Learner  
25 Program implement the requirements of Title VI of the Civil  
26 Rights Act of 1964 and its regulations; and  
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28           WHEREAS, Civil Beat reported on October 28, 2022, that in  
29 2018, "41% of EL students in Hawaii public schools were on track  
30 to gaining language proficiency"; and



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WHEREAS, Civil Beat also reported that the number of English learners on track to gaining language proficiency dropped to twenty-eight percent in 2021 and 2022; and

WHEREAS, the role of teachers play a direct impact on student success; and

WHEREAS, funding for the English Learner Program should be prioritized by the Department of Education to comply with the Civil Rights Act of 1964; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2023, the Senate concurring, that the Department of Education is requested to prioritize funding for the English Learner Program in public schools to address the increasing population of English learner students in the State; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Chairperson of the Board of Education, and Superintendent of Education.

OFFERED BY: 

MAR - 9 2023

