
HOUSE 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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31 WHEREAS, an extremely engaging documentary film entitled
32 "Waterman" highlights the life, times, and challenges of Duke



1 Kahanamoku as a young Native Hawaiian immersed in the western
2 world while faithfully retaining his qualities of aloha; and
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4 WHEREAS, "Waterman" was recently showcased to an audience
5 of legislators, community leaders, and school officials in hopes
6 that they could recognize the intrinsic value of the documentary
7 in shaping the perspectives, values, and goals of children; and
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9 WHEREAS, "Waterman" was received with an overwhelmingly
10 positive response and it was determined that the movie's
11 efficacy to affect positive change might best be impactful in
12 the years encompassing middle and intermediate school; and
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14 WHEREAS, producers David Ulich and Dr. Steven Ungerleider
15 of Sidewinder Films have agreed to allow free access to
16 "Waterman" in hopes that it could be broadly integrated into the
17 middle and intermediate school curriculum and shown
18 comprehensively to students as a coordinated effort to improve
19 the local self-perception, self-esteem, self-worth, and self-
20 respect of children throughout Hawaii; now therefore,
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22 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
23 Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
24 Session of 2023, that the Board of Education and Department of
25 Education are urged to integrate into the middle and
26 intermediate school curriculum a component that involves the
27 "Waterman" film to help provide a strong role model for a
28 population of children who have so few heroes to embrace; and
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30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is
31 urged to coordinate with the necessary agencies and stakeholders
32 to provide free access to the documentary in a format that is
33 accessible to each school; and
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35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
36 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of
37 Education and Superintendent of Education.

