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# HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS TO IDENTIFY THE SCOPE  
OF NATIVE HAWAIIAN CULTURAL APPROPRIATENESS FOR THE PURPOSE  
OF ADDRESSING NATIVE HAWAIIAN DISPARITIES.

1           WHEREAS, Native Hawaiians confront pronounced disparities  
2 and inequities in crucial aspects of life, including but not  
3 limited to health, housing, education, economics, and identity;  
4 and

5  
6           WHEREAS, the State has recognized Native Hawaiians "as the  
7 only indigenous, aboriginal, maoli people of Hawaii"; and

8  
9           WHEREAS, Native Hawaiians have suffered historical  
10 injustices that have deprived them of sovereignty and the  
11 exercise of self-determination, which has stifled their socio-  
12 political-economic development; and

13  
14           WHEREAS, Public Law 103-150, informally known as the  
15 Apology Resolution, recognized that economic and social changes  
16 in Hawaii have been devastating to the health and well-being of  
17 Native Hawaiians; and

18  
19           WHEREAS, the State, on the condition of its admission into  
20 the Union, was entrusted with continuously pursuing the  
21 betterment of conditions of Native Hawaiians; and

22  
23           WHEREAS, enduring structural racism, rooted in historical  
24 injustices, has yet to be dismantled and continues to exacerbate  
25 the adversities faced by Native Hawaiians; and

26  
27           WHEREAS, Native Hawaiians inherently possess the capacity  
28 to formulate their own solutions, necessitating the creation of  
29 opportunities for their advancement, unburdened by systemic



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1 oppression, and concurrently, ensuring that the State fulfills  
2 its obligation to support the pursuit of equity; and

3  
4 WHEREAS, Native Hawaiian traditional knowledge not only  
5 contributes to addressing ecological challenges, such as climate  
6 change, but also holds immeasurable value in guiding all policy  
7 processes aimed at improving the well-being of Native Hawaiians  
8 and the broader community; and

9  
10 WHEREAS, the State lacks a comprehensive guiding document  
11 on Native Hawaiian cultural appropriateness to inform decision-  
12 making in an inclusive, respectful, and effective manner that is  
13 sensitive to Native Hawaiian cultural identity and heritage in  
14 accordance with the interests and aspirations of Native  
15 Hawaiians; and

16  
17 WHEREAS, cultural appropriateness in economic development  
18 may involve prioritizing the role of Native Hawaiian traditional  
19 knowledge and empowering Native Hawaiian leadership and  
20 entrepreneurship over its use, while establishing culturally  
21 relevant pathways for workforce development, industry and sector  
22 adaptation, and business ecosystem establishment to meet the  
23 unique needs of Native Hawaiians; and

24  
25 WHEREAS, cultural appropriateness in education may involve  
26 culturally responsive teaching, learning environments, and  
27 policies that connect Native Hawaiian culture, language, and  
28 life experiences with Native Hawaiian learners to meet the  
29 unique needs of Native Hawaiians; and

30  
31 WHEREAS, cultural appropriateness in health care may  
32 involve adhering to Native Hawaiian frameworks for achieving  
33 social and health equity and emphasizing cultural competence as  
34 the ability of providers and organizations to effectively  
35 deliver health care services to meet the unique needs of Native  
36 Hawaiians; and

37  
38 WHEREAS, cultural appropriateness in housing may involve  
39 elevating traditional housing concepts for integration into  
40 modern planning and development and adapting these systems to  
41 meet the unique needs of Native Hawaiians; and

42



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1 WHEREAS, the breadth of existing guidance on cultural  
2 appropriateness is extensive and diverse, yet dispersed across  
3 various sources, thereby underscoring the imperative necessity  
4 to consolidate and expand upon this guidance; and

5  
6 WHEREAS, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, as the  
7 constitutionally established principal public agency in the  
8 State with the purpose to continuously pursue the betterment of  
9 conditions of Native Hawaiians, is the most appropriate entity  
10 to identify the scope of Native Hawaiian cultural  
11 appropriateness in policy processes in the State; now,  
12 therefore,

13  
14 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
15 Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
16 Session of 2024, the Senate concurring, that the Office of  
17 Hawaiian Affairs is requested to identify the scope of Native  
18 Hawaiian cultural appropriateness for the purpose of addressing  
19 Native Hawaiian disparities with emphasis on the following  
20 priority areas:

- 21  
22 (1) Native Hawaiian economic development needs;  
23  
24 (2) Native Hawaiian education needs;  
25  
26 (3) Native Hawaiian health needs; and  
27  
28 (4) Native Hawaiian housing needs; and  
29

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Office of Hawaiian Affairs  
31 is requested to consult with agencies of the State and relevant  
32 stakeholders, in addition to other Native Hawaiian communities  
33 and organizations deemed appropriate; and

34  
35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Office of Hawaiian Affairs  
36 is requested to submit a report of its findings and  
37 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the  
38 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of  
39 the Regular Sessions of 2025 and 2027; and

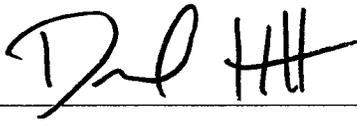
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41 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
42 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor;



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1 Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of the Office of Hawaiian  
2 Affairs; Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture; Director of  
3 Business, Economic Development, and Tourism; Chairperson of the  
4 Board of Education; Superintendent of Education; Director of  
5 Health; Director of Human Services; Chairperson of the Board of  
6 Land and Natural Resources; President of the University of  
7 Hawaii; and Chairperson of the State Council on Developmental  
8 Disabilities.

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11

OFFERED BY:   
MAR 04 2024

