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## HOUSE 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

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

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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

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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

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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

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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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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40           WHEREAS, the breadth of existing guidance on cultural  
41 appropriateness is extensive and diverse, yet dispersed across



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1 various sources, thereby underscoring the imperative necessity  
2 to consolidate and expand upon this guidance; and  
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4 WHEREAS, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, as the  
5 constitutionally established principal public agency in the  
6 State with the purpose to continuously pursue the betterment of  
7 conditions of Native Hawaiians, is the most appropriate entity  
8 to identify the scope of Native Hawaiian cultural  
9 appropriateness in policy processes in the State; now,  
10 therefore,  
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12 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
13 Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
14 Session of 2024, that the Office of Hawaiian Affairs is  
15 requested to identify the scope of Native Hawaiian cultural  
16 appropriateness for the purpose of addressing Native Hawaiian  
17 disparities with emphasis on the following priority areas:  
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- 19 (1) Native Hawaiian economic development needs;
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- 21 (2) Native Hawaiian education needs;
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- 23 (3) Native Hawaiian health needs; and
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- 25 (4) Native Hawaiian housing needs; and
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27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Office of Hawaiian Affairs  
28 is requested to consult with agencies of the State and relevant  
29 stakeholders, in addition to other Native Hawaiian communities  
30 and organizations deemed appropriate; and  
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32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Office of Hawaiian Affairs  
33 is requested to submit a report of its findings and  
34 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the  
35 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of  
36 the Regular Sessions of 2025 and 2027; and  
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38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
39 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor; Chairperson of the  
40 Board of Trustees of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs; Chairperson  
41 of the Board of Agriculture; Director of Business, Economic  
42 Development, and Tourism; Chairperson of the Board of Education;

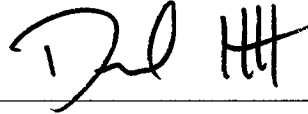


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1 Superintendent of Education; Director of Health; Director of  
2 Human Services; Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural  
3 Resources; President of the University of Hawaii; and  
4 Chairperson of the State Council on Developmental Disabilities.

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OFFERED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized first name and a last name with three vertical strokes.

MAR 04 2024

