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SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING BUSINESSES IN HAWAII TO USE HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE AND REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT EDUCATION PROGRAMS TO TEACH EMPLOYEES HAWAIIAN AND HIRE PERMANENT HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE TEACHERS.

WHEREAS, the Hawaiian language, also known as 'Ōlelo 2 Hawai'i, holds cultural significance and is an integral part of the rich heritage of the State; and

WHEREAS, promoting and preserving the Hawaiian language contributes to the preservation of the unique cultural identity of Hawaii: and

WHEREAS, recognizing the importance of fostering an inclusive environment that embraces the cultural diversity of Hawaii is essential for the well-being of the community; and

WHEREAS, encouraging the use of Hawaiian language in businesses is a positive step toward cultural enrichment and linguistic diversity; and

WHEREAS, creating opportunities for the permanent hiring of Hawaiian language teachers supports language education in initiatives and ensures the continuity of language learning programs; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2024, the House of Representatives concurring, that all businesses operating in the State are requested to incorporate the use of Hawaiian language in their daily operations, including but not limited to signage, communication materials, and customer interactions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is requested to allocate resources to establish a permanent position for a Hawaiian language teacher who is available to businesses in the State to ensure that employees have access to language learning opportunities; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education, in collaboration with cultural organizations and language experts, is requested to develop and implement education programs to support businesses in using Hawaiian language, including language training for employees; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is requested to make Hawaiian language courses available at all forty-three public high schools; and

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19 20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Superintendent of Education, Chairperson of the Board of Education, and Director of Labor and Industrial Relations.