
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE PROBATE COURT TO INCREASE TRANSPARENCY AND
STAKEHOLDER PARTICIPATION IN THE KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS TRUSTEE
SELECTION PROCESS.

1 WHEREAS, Kamehameha Schools was established by the will of
2 Princess Bernice Pauahi Bishop to create educational
3 opportunities in perpetuity to improve the capability and
4 well-being of people of Hawaiian ancestry; and
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6 WHEREAS, in accordance with the will of Bernice Pauahi
7 Bishop, the governance of Kamehameha Schools rests with a Board
8 of Trustees who provide the strategic direction and focus
9 necessary to fulfill and sustain the vision, mission, and values
10 of Kamehameha Schools; and
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12 WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees comprises five individuals
13 who are equally vested with the responsibility and duty of
14 collectively carrying out the testamentary will of Bernice
15 Pauahi Bishop; and
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17 WHEREAS, the sole purpose of the Board of Trustees is to
18 set policy, while the day-to-day management of the institution
19 rests with a board-appointed Chief Executive Officer and the
20 Chief Executive Officer's chosen managerial staff; and
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22 WHEREAS, according to the January 6, 2000, court order
23 establishing the trustee selection process, the Trustee
24 Screening Committee members shall be familiar with and sensitive
25 to:
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- 27 (1) The history and role of the Trust Estate relative to
28 the Hawaiian community and the community at large; and
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1 (2) Pauahi's legacy and her vision for the education and
2 advancement of Hawaiian children; and

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4 WHEREAS, in 2019, the legislature passed House Concurrent
5 Resolution No. 133 requesting the probate court to increase
6 transparency and engage more stakeholders in the trustee
7 selection process; and

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9 WHEREAS, in May 2022, the Trustees petitioned the probate
10 court and a group of court-appointed special masters to review
11 the trustee selection process that has been in place for twenty
12 years; and

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14 WHEREAS, by a separate filing with the probate court, the
15 Trustees supported changes to the trustee selection process to
16 increase stakeholder participation by requiring a majority of
17 the Trustee Screening Committee members to be Native Hawaiian
18 and at least one member to be a graduate of Kamehameha Schools;
19 and

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21 WHEREAS, in June 2024, the court-appointed special masters
22 issued their report on the trustee selection process. The
23 report recommended that:

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25 (1) The Trustees file a notice with the probate court no
26 less than one year prior to an anticipated vacancy on
27 the Board of Trustees; and

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29 (2) The probate court publish the names and qualifications
30 of seven individuals selected to serve on the
31 screening committee; and

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33 WHEREAS, the report did not address the Trustees'
34 recommendations regarding stakeholder participation; now,
35 therefore,

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37 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
38 Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
39 of 2025, the Senate concurring, that the probate court is
40 requested to recognize that Kamehameha Schools stakeholders, who
41 include the greater Native Hawaiian community; all the
42 beneficiaries of the Bernice Pauahi Bishop Estate; Kamehameha



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1 Schools alumni, faculty, and staff; and parents of current
2 beneficiaries of Kamehameha's educational services, should be
3 afforded a greater role in decisions affecting the Trust Estate;
4 and

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6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the probate court is requested
7 to:

- 8
9 (1) Fully observe the terms of the January 6, 2000, court
10 order, especially as it relates to the composition of
11 the Trustee Screening Committee;
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13 (2) Appoint future Trustee Screening Committees that
14 comprise Kamehameha Schools stakeholders; and
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16 (3) Be transparent regarding the qualifications of and the
17 method by which the members of the Trustee Screening
18 Committee are chosen; and

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20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
21 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chief Justice of the
22 Hawaii Supreme Court, Chief Administrator of the Courts, and
23 Chair of the Board of Trustees of Kamehameha Schools.
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OFFERED BY: *Kanani Souza*

JAN 29 2025

