
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII TO PRIORITIZE A CAPITAL
IMPROVEMENT PROJECT TO CONSTRUCT "HALAU O KAWAIHUELANI".

1 WHEREAS, article XV, Section 4 of the Constitution of the
2 State of Hawaii recognizes both Hawaiian and English as the
3 official languages of Hawaii; and
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5 WHEREAS, the Department of Education supports Hawaiian
6 Language fluency among students in grades kindergarten through
7 twelve in Kula Kaiapuni Hawaiian language immersion schools
8 across the State, which require teachers to be fluent in the
9 Hawaiian language; and
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11 WHEREAS, the University of Hawaii's strategic plan
12 identifies the University of Hawaii at Manoa as a "Hawaiian
13 Place of Learning" and an indigenous serving institution; and
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15 WHEREAS, the Kawaihuelani Center for Hawaiian Language is
16 an academic department in the Hawai'inuiākea School of Hawaiian
17 Knowledge at the University of Hawaii at Manoa; and
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19 WHEREAS, the Kawaihuelani Center enrolled over eighty
20 undergraduate majors and graduate students during the 2024-2025
21 academic year, and currently teaches nearly one thousand
22 students every semester in introductory and intermediate
23 language courses, as well as general education foundation
24 courses; and
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26 WHEREAS, the Kawaihuelani Center and its sister center, the
27 Kamakakūokalani Center for Hawaiian Studies, collectively enroll
28 more than four thousand students each academic year in required
29 general education, Hawaiian, and second language courses; and
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1 WHEREAS, the growth of Hawaiian language fluency has led to
2 a significant rise in Hawaiian language performances in theater
3 and music, and scholarly publications in Hawaiian, as well as
4 research that relies upon Hawaiian language fluency for certain
5 fields in science, social sciences, and the humanities; and
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7 WHEREAS, the Kawaihuelani Center and Kamakakūokalani Center
8 have been authorized to plan a joint Doctor of Philosophy degree
9 program in 'Ike Kūpuna (Hawaiian Knowledge), which would require
10 graduate-level Hawaiian language fluency; and
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12 WHEREAS, the need for Hawaiian language and Hawaiian
13 studies has led to a significant growth in permanent faculty in
14 both programs; and
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16 WHEREAS, the Kamakakūokalani Center has housed its faculty
17 and programs in the Kamakakūokalani building at the far eastern
18 end of the University of Hawaii at Manoa campus, nearly one-half
19 mile from the Kawaihuelani Center and the offices of the Dean of
20 the Hawai'inuiākea School, which are located on the second floor
21 of Spalding Hall; and
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23 WHEREAS, because Spalding Hall is shared by the Dean and
24 staff of the Hawai'inuiākea School; Kawaihuelani Center; and Indo
25 Pacific Languages and Graduate Division of the College of Arts,
26 Languages and Letters; there is no room for expansion to
27 accommodate both the current and the projected permanent staff
28 and faculty of the Kawaihuelani Center; and
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30 WHEREAS, this physical separation has not been conducive to
31 program collaboration and curricular innovation; now, therefore,
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33 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
34 Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
35 of 2025, the Senate concurring, that the University of Hawaii is
36 requested to prioritize a capital improvement project to
37 construct "Halau o Kawaihuelani", which is envisioned as an
38 office and classroom building to accommodate the Hawai'inuiākea
39 School's Dean and staff; the Kawaihuelani Center's faculty and
40 staff; Hawaiian language classes; and a performing arts facility
41 that provides a center for Hawaiian music, dance, and theater;
42 and



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2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
3 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chair of the Board
4 of Regents of the University of Hawaii, President of the
5 University of Hawaii, Provost of the University of Hawaii at
6 Manoa, Dean of the Hawai'inuiākea School of Hawaiian Knowledge,
7 Director of the Kawaihuelani Center for Hawaiian Language, and
8 Director of the Kamakakūokalani Center for Hawaiian Studies.

