
HOUSE 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
5

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
11

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
16

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
21

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:
26

- 27 (1) The history and role of the Trust Estate relative to
28 the Hawaiian community and the community at large; and
29
- 30 (2) Pauahi's legacy and her vision for the education and
31 advancement of Hawaiian children; and
32



1 WHEREAS, in 2019, the legislature passed House Resolution
2 No. 133 requesting the probate court to increase transparency
3 and engage more stakeholders in the trustee selection process;
4 and

5
6 WHEREAS, in May 2022, the Trustees petitioned the probate
7 court and a group of court-appointed special masters to review
8 the trustee selection process that has been in place for twenty
9 years; and

10
11 WHEREAS, by a separate filing with the probate court, the
12 Trustees supported changes to the trustee selection process to
13 increase stakeholder participation by requiring a majority of
14 the Trustee Screening Committee members to be Native Hawaiian
15 and at least one member to be a graduate of Kamehameha Schools;
16 and

17
18 WHEREAS, in June 2024, the court-appointed special masters
19 issued their report on the trustee selection process. The
20 report recommended that:

- 21
22 (1) The Trustees file a notice with the probate court no
23 less than one year prior to an anticipated vacancy on
24 the Board of Trustees; and
25
26 (2) The probate court publish the names and qualifications
27 of seven individuals selected to serve on the
28 screening committee; and
29

30 WHEREAS, the report did not address the Trustees'
31 recommendations regarding stakeholder participation; now,
32 therefore,

33
34 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
35 Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
36 of 2025, that the probate court is requested to recognize that
37 Kamehameha Schools stakeholders, who include the greater Native
38 Hawaiian community; all the beneficiaries of the Bernice Pauahi
39 Bishop Estate; Kamehameha Schools alumni, faculty, and staff;
40 and parents of current beneficiaries of Kamehameha's educational
41 services, should be afforded a greater role in decisions
42 affecting the Trust Estate; and



1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22

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

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Chief Justice of the Hawaii Supreme Court, Chief Administrator of the Courts, and Chair of the Board of Trustees of Kamehameha Schools.

OFFERED BY:



JAN 29 2025

