
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO ESTABLISH AN ALOHA
CIVICS WORKING GROUP TO ENHANCE CIVICS EDUCATION IN HAWAII.

1 WHEREAS, the "Aloha Spirit" is a unique cultural attribute
2 of Hawaii, embodying the principles of kindness (Aloha Akahai),
3 unity (Aloha Lokahi), humility (Aloha Ha'aha'a), patience (Aloha
4 Ahonui), and a deep sense of love and respect for others; and
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6 WHEREAS, these values are enshrined in section 5-7.5,
7 Hawaii Revised Statutes, which recognizes the Aloha Spirit as
8 "the coordination of mind and heart within each person" and
9 emphasizes cooperation, empathy, and understanding; and
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11 WHEREAS, political polarization has intensified across the
12 nation, creating significant barriers to constructive dialogue
13 and civic engagement; and
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15 WHEREAS, the principles of the Aloha Spirit offer a
16 powerful framework for fostering respectful discourse, active
17 listening, and collaborative problem-solving, which are
18 essential skills for participatory democracy; and
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20 WHEREAS, integrating the Aloha Spirit into civics education
21 can help equip students with the tools to engage in political
22 and social discussions in a manner that promotes unity and
23 mutual understanding; and
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25 WHEREAS, a comprehensive approach to civics education that
26 incorporates the Aloha Spirit can empower students to become
27 engaged citizens who approach governance and public service with
28 empathy and integrity; now, therefore,
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30 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
31 Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session



1 of 2025, the Senate concurring, that the Department of Education
2 is requested to establish an Aloha Civics Working Group to
3 enhance civics education in Hawaii; and
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5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Aloha Civics Working Group
6 is requested to include the following as members:
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- 8 (1) The Superintendent of Education, or the
9 Superintendent's designee;
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11 (2) A representative from the University of Hawaii's
12 Matsunaga Institute for Peace;
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14 (3) A representative from the Legislative Reference Bureau
15 Public Access Room;
- 16
17 (4) A representative from a community organization focused
18 on civic engagement, to be selected by the Speaker of
19 the House of Representatives;
- 20
21 (5) A representative from a community organization focused
22 on civic engagement, to be selected by the President
23 of the Senate; and
- 24
25 (6) Two public members with experience in education or
26 civic engagement, to be selected by the Governor; and
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28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Aloha Civics Working Group
29 is requested to:
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- 31 (1) Assess the current state of civics education in
32 Hawaii's public schools;
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34 (2) Identify opportunities to integrate the principles of
35 the Aloha Spirit into the civics curriculum;
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37 (3) Develop strategies to enhance students' understanding
38 of democratic processes and civic responsibilities;
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40 (4) Recommend professional development programs for
41 educators to effectively teach civics with an emphasis
42 on the Aloha Spirit; and




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(5) Propose metrics to evaluate the effectiveness of civics education programs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Aloha Civics Working Group is requested to submit a report of its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature and the Department of Education no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2026; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Superintendent of Education, Director of the University of Hawaii's Matsunaga Institute for Peace, and Coordinator of the Legislative Reference Bureau Public Access Room.

OFFERED BY:



MAR - 6 2025

