
HOUSE 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
4

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
10

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
14

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
18

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
25

26 WHEREAS, the Kawaihuelani Center and its sister center, the
27 Kamakūōkalani 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
30

31 WHEREAS, the growth of Hawaiian language fluency has led to
32 a significant rise in Hawaiian language performances in theater
33 and music, and scholarly publications in Hawaiian, as well as



1 research that relies upon Hawaiian language fluency for certain
2 fields in science, social sciences, and the humanities; and

3
4 WHEREAS, the Kawaihuelani Center and Kamakakūokalani Center
5 have been authorized to plan a joint Doctor of Philosophy degree
6 program in 'Ike Kūpuna (Hawaiian Knowledge), which would require
7 graduate-level Hawaiian language fluency; and

8
9 WHEREAS, the need for Hawaiian language and Hawaiian
10 studies has led to a significant growth in permanent faculty in
11 both programs; and

12
13 WHEREAS, the Kamakakūokalani Center has housed its faculty
14 and programs in the Kamakakūokalani building at the far eastern
15 end of the University of Hawaii at Manoa campus, nearly one-half
16 mile from the Kawaihuelani Center and the offices of the Dean of
17 the Hawai'inuiākea School, which are located on the second floor
18 of Spalding Hall; and

19
20 WHEREAS, because Spalding Hall is shared by the Dean and
21 staff of the Hawai'inuiākea School; Kawaihuelani Center; and Indo
22 Pacific Languages and Graduate Division of the College of Arts,
23 Languages and Letters; there is no room for expansion to
24 accommodate both the current and the projected permanent staff
25 and faculty of the Kawaihuelani Center; and

26
27 WHEREAS, this physical separation has not been conducive to
28 program collaboration and curricular innovation; now, therefore,

29
30 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
31 Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
32 of 2025, that the University of Hawaii is requested to
33 prioritize a capital improvement project to construct "Halau o
34 Kawaihuelani", which is envisioned as an office and classroom
35 building to accommodate the Hawai'inuiākea School's Dean and
36 staff; the Kawaihuelani Center's faculty and staff; Hawaiian
37 language classes; and a performing arts facility that provides a
38 center for Hawaiian music, dance, and theater; and

39
40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
41 Resolution be transmitted to the Chair of the Board of Regents
42 of the University of Hawaii, President of the University of



1 Hawaii, Provost of the University of Hawaii at Manoa, Dean of
2 the Hawaiʻinuiākea School of Hawaiian Knowledge, Director of the
3 Kawaihuelani Center for Hawaiian Language, and Director of the
4 Kamakakūokalani Center for Hawaiian Studies.

