
HOUSE 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
32 of 2025, that the Department of Education is requested to



1 establish an Aloha Civics Working Group to enhance civics
2 education in Hawaii; and
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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Aloha Civics Working Group
5 is requested to include the following as members:
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- 7 (1) The Superintendent of Education, or the
8 Superintendent's designee;
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- 10 (2) A representative from the University of Hawaii's
11 Matsunaga Institute for Peace;
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- 13 (3) A representative from the Legislative Reference Bureau
14 Public Access Room;
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- 16 (4) A representative from a community organization focused
17 on civic engagement, to be selected by the Speaker of
18 the House of Representatives;
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- 20 (5) A representative from a community organization focused
21 on civic engagement, to be selected by the President
22 of the Senate; and
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- 24 (6) Two public members with experience in education or
25 civic engagement, to be selected by the Governor; and
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27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Aloha Civics Working Group
28 is requested to:
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- 30 (1) Assess the current state of civics education in
31 Hawaii's public schools;
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- 33 (2) Identify opportunities to integrate the principles of
34 the Aloha Spirit into the civics curriculum;
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- 36 (3) Develop strategies to enhance students' understanding
37 of democratic processes and civic responsibilities;
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- 39 (4) Recommend professional development programs for
40 educators to effectively teach civics with an emphasis
41 on the Aloha Spirit; and
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1 (5) Propose metrics to evaluate the effectiveness of
2 civics education programs; and
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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Aloha Civics Working Group
5 is requested to submit a report of its findings and
6 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the
7 Legislature and the Department of Education no later than twenty
8 days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2026; and
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10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
11 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Superintendent of
12 Education, Director of the University of Hawaii's Matsunaga
13 Institute for Peace, and Coordinator of the Legislative
14 Reference Bureau Public Access Room.
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OFFERED BY: _____



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