

MAR 07 2025

## SENATE RESOLUTION

SUPPORTING THE NATIVE HAWAIIAN INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY WORKING  
GROUP'S REQUEST FOR RESOURCES AND TIMELINE EXTENSION FOR  
FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026.

1 WHEREAS, the State has a unique constitutional mandate  
2 under Article XII, Section 7, to protect and preserve the rights  
3 of Native Hawaiians, including cultural and traditional rights,  
4 making the preservation of Native Hawaiian intellectual property  
5 a responsibility of the State; and  
6

7 WHEREAS, the Native Hawaiian Intellectual Property Working  
8 Group ("Working Group") was established by H.C.R. No. 108,  
9 H.D. 1, S.D. 1 (2023), to address the complexities of protecting  
10 Native Hawaiian intellectual property, with a composition that  
11 includes representatives from respected Native Hawaiian  
12 organizations, including the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, State  
13 Foundation on Culture and the Arts, Native Hawaiian Legal  
14 Corporation, Ka Huli Ao Center for Excellence in Native Hawaiian  
15 Law, Kāhuli Leo Le'a, 'Ihikapalaumaewa Foundation, Kawaihuelani  
16 Center for Hawaiian Language, and Association of Hawaiian Civic  
17 Clubs; and  
18

19 WHEREAS, the Working Group is tasked with creating and  
20 developing solutions to prevent Native Hawaiian intellectual  
21 property from being incorrectly appropriated and is requested to  
22 submit its recommendations, including any proposed legislation,  
23 to the Legislature no later than forty days prior to the  
24 convening of the Regular Session of 2025; and  
25

26 WHEREAS, the Working Group requires additional time and  
27 resources to conduct culturally appropriate community  
28 consultations, which are critical for ensuring that solutions  
29 reflect the collective aspirations, insights, and concerns of  
30 Native Hawaiians; and  
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32 WHEREAS, extending resources to the Working Group aligns  
33 with the State's commitment to reconciliation and justice for  
34 Native Hawaiian people by actively supporting their self-  
35 determination and control over cultural assets; and



1  
2 WHEREAS, studies have shown that indigenous communities  
3 that retain control over their cultural resources experience  
4 greater economic stability, community resilience, and cultural  
5 vibrancy, all of which are essential to the well-being of Native  
6 Hawaiian communities; and  
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8 WHEREAS, the State's economy benefits from Hawaiian culture  
9 as a central part of its tourism industry, with \$4,800,000,000  
10 in gross domestic product deriving from Hawaii's creative  
11 industries, making it imperative to preserve the integrity of  
12 Native Hawaiian intellectual property to ensure cultural  
13 authenticity and respect; and  
14

15 WHEREAS, this body acknowledges the importance of this  
16 mission and the complexity of the work, which requires  
17 sufficient time and resources to ensure thorough and meaningful  
18 outcomes for the Native Hawaiian community; now, therefore,  
19

20 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third  
21 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2025,  
22 that this body supports the Native Hawaiian Intellectual  
23 Property Working Group's request for resources and timeline  
24 extension for fiscal year 2025-2026; and  
25

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this  
27 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Native  
28 Hawaiian Intellectual Property Working Group.  
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OFFERED BY:  \_\_\_\_\_

