

MAR 07 2025

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS TO ESTABLISH AND
PROVIDE LEGISLATIVE ENGAGEMENT FORUMS TO EDUCATE AND
EMPOWER THE NATIVE HAWAIIAN COMMUNITY REGARDING THE
LEGISLATIVE PROCESS.

WHEREAS, this body finds that the duties of the Office of
Hawaiian Affairs include:

- (1) Advancing the betterment of conditions of Native
Hawaiians;
- (2) Assessing the policies and practices of other agencies
impacting Native Hawaiians;
- (3) Conducting advocacy efforts for Native Hawaiians; and
- (4) Serving as the principal public agency in the State
responsible for the performance, development, and
coordination of programs and activities relating to
Native Hawaiians; and

WHEREAS, the legislative process plays a crucial role in
shaping policies and laws that directly impact the Native
Hawaiian community; and

WHEREAS, increasing resources and information on the
legislative process available to the Native Hawaiian community
will increase community engagement; and

WHEREAS, increasing civic engagement and understanding of
the legislative process empowers Native Hawaiians to advocate
for their interests effectively; and

WHEREAS, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs serves as a vital
institution dedicated to improving the well-being of Native
Hawaiians through advocacy, research, and community support; and

WHEREAS, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs has the resources
and capacity to facilitate educational initiatives that promote



1 greater awareness and participation in the legislative process;
2 and
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4 WHEREAS, legislative engagement forums will provide
5 valuable opportunities for Native Hawaiians to learn about bill
6 drafting, testimony submission, committee hearings, and other
7 aspects of civic engagement; and
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9 WHEREAS, legislative engagement forums may be conducted
10 through in-person workshops, virtual seminars, and outreach
11 efforts in various communities across the State; now, therefore,
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13 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third
14 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2025,
15 that the Office of Hawaiian Affairs is requested to establish
16 and provide legislative engagement forums to educate and empower
17 the Native Hawaiian community regarding the legislative process;
18 and
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20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Office of Hawaiian Affairs
21 is encouraged to collaborate with community organizations,
22 educational institutions, and legislative bodies to ensure the
23 accessibility and effectiveness of these forums; and
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25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that these legislative engagement
26 forums should include educational materials, workshops, and
27 mentorship opportunities that enable Native Hawaiians to
28 effectively navigate the legislative process; and
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30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Office of Hawaiian Affairs
31 is urged to provide an annual report to the Legislature
32 summarizing the activities, participation, and impact of these
33 forums, as well as recommendations for further improvement; and
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35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Office of Hawaiian Affairs
36 is urged to consider establishing an advisory group composed of
37 Native Hawaiian leaders, educators, and policy experts to guide
38 and enhance the effectiveness of these efforts; and
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40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
41 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of



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1 Trustees of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs and Chief Executive
2 Officer of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs.
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OFFERED BY:

Hunt M. Richards 10

