
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS ADMISSIONS POLICY
AND URGING THE HAWAII ATTORNEY GENERAL TO SUBMIT AN AMICUS
CURIAE BRIEF TO DEFEND THE ADMISSIONS POLICY IN ANY FUTURE
LAWSUIT.

1 WHEREAS, Princess Bernice Pauahi Paki Bishop, the last
2 royal descendant of the Kamehameha dynasty, established
3 Kamehameha Schools under the terms of her will; and
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5 WHEREAS, the Princess intended that children of Native
6 Hawaiian ancestry be given a preference for admission to the
7 schools; and
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9 WHEREAS, the admissions preference for Native Hawaiian
10 students today is a remedial measure rooted in the historical
11 injustices suffered by Native Hawaiians, including the overthrow
12 of the Hawaiian Kingdom in 1893, the seizure of lands, and the
13 suppression of Hawaiian language and culture, and is intended to
14 bring Native Hawaiian students into educational parity with
15 other ethnic groups in Hawaii; and
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17 WHEREAS, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in *Doe v.*
18 *Kamehameha Schools/Bernice Pauahi Bishop Estate*, 470 F.3d 827
19 (9th Cir. 2006), upheld the legality of the admissions policy
20 under a three factor test:
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- 22 (1) The policy serves as a response to a manifest
23 imbalance in current educational achievement between
24 Native Hawaiians and other ethnic groups in Hawaii;
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- 26 (2) The policy does not unnecessarily trammel the rights
27 of students with non-Hawaiian ancestry, or create an
28 absolute bar to their advancement; and
29



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1 (3) The policy does no more than is necessary to correct
2 the manifest imbalance suffered by students of Native
3 Hawaiian ancestry; and
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5 WHEREAS, the recent decision in *Students for Fair*
6 *Admissions, Inc. v. President and Fellows of Harvard College*,
7 600 U.S. 181 (2023), which struck down race-conscious admissions
8 policies at federally funded universities, does not apply to
9 Kamehameha Schools, which is entirely privately funded and
10 operates under a separate legal framework; and
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12 WHEREAS, the current challenge to Kamehameha Schools'
13 admissions policy announced by Students for Fair Admissions, a
14 mainland-based organization with no historical or cultural ties
15 to Hawaii, represents a renewed attempt to undermine the legacy
16 of the Princess; and
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18 WHEREAS, the Kamehameha Schools admissions policy is not
19 only legal but also morally and culturally essential to the
20 survival and flourishing of Native Hawaiian identity, education,
21 and self-determination; and
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23 WHEREAS, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs and other Native
24 Hawaiian institutions have affirmed that the challenge to the
25 Kamehameha Schools admissions policy is part of a broader
26 pattern of attacks on Native Hawaiian rights and protections;
27 now, therefore,
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29 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
30 Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
31 of 2026, the Senate concurring, that this body expresses its
32 support for the Kamehameha Schools admissions policy; and
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34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature urges the
35 Attorney General of the State of Hawaii to file in any
36 applicable lawsuit an amicus curiae brief defending the
37 constitutionality and cultural necessity of the Kamehameha
38 Schools admissions policy; and
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40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
41 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, the Attorney General,
42 the Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Office of Hawaiian



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1 Affairs, and the Chair of the Board of Trustees of Kamehameha
2 Schools.

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OFFERED BY:

Karani Saiki

FEB 25 2026

