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## HOUSE 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 Eishop, 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  
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30           (3) The policy does no more than is necessary to correct  
31 the manifest imbalance suffered by students of Native  
32 Hawaiian ancestry; and



1 WHEREAS, the recent decision in *Students for Fair*  
2 *Admissions, Inc. v. President and Fellows of Harvard College*,  
3 600 U.S. 181 (2023), which struck down race-conscious admissions  
4 policies at federally funded universities, does not apply to  
5 Kamehameha Schools, which is entirely privately funded and  
6 operates under a separate legal framework; and  
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8 WHEREAS, the current challenge to Kamehameha Schools'  
9 admissions policy announced by Students for Fair Admissions, a  
10 mainland-based organization with no historical or cultural ties  
11 to Hawaii, represents a renewed attempt to undermine the legacy  
12 of the Princess; and  
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14 WHEREAS, the Kamehameha Schools admissions policy is not  
15 only legal but also morally and culturally essential to the  
16 survival and flourishing of Native Hawaiian identity, education,  
17 and self-determination; and  
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19 WHEREAS, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs and other Native  
20 Hawaiian institutions have affirmed that the challenge to the  
21 Kamehameha Schools admissions policy is part of a broader  
22 pattern of attacks on Native Hawaiian rights and protections;  
23 now, therefore,  
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25 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
26 Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
27 of 2026, that this body expresses its support for the Kamehameha  
28 Schools admissions policy; and  
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30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature urges the  
31 Attorney General of the State of Hawaii to file in any  
32 applicable lawsuit an amicus curiae brief defending the  
33 constitutionality and cultural necessity of the Kamehameha  
34 Schools admissions policy; and  
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36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
37 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, the Attorney General,  
38 the Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Office of Hawaiian  
39 Affairs, and the Chair of the Board of Trustees of Kamehameha  
40 Schools.  
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H.R. NO. 17

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OFFERED BY:

*Karani Souy*

FEB 25 2026

