

JAN 28 2026

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO MANDATE THE TEACHING OF
PRE-1959 HAWAIIAN HISTORY FROM AN INDIGENOUS PERSPECTIVE,
BEGINNING NO LATER THAN SCHOOL YEAR 2027-2028, ACROSS ALL
GRADE LEVELS WHERE SOCIAL STUDIES IS TAUGHT.

1 WHEREAS, Article X, Section 4 of the Constitution of the
2 State of Hawai'i mandates that "the State shall promote the study
3 of Hawaiian culture, history and language," thereby affirming
4 its obligation to center Hawaiian language and culture within
5 the public education system; and

6
7 WHEREAS, the current social studies curriculum in Hawai'i
8 public schools disproportionately emphasizes post-statehood
9 events and fails to provide students with a comprehensive
10 understanding of pre-1959 Hawaiian history, including the
11 Hawaiian Kingdom's sophisticated systems of governance, land
12 tenure, education, and diplomacy; and

13
14 WHEREAS, a truthful and inclusive education must
15 acknowledge pivotal moments in Hawaiian history such as the
16 unification of the islands under Kamehameha I, the establishment
17 of a constitutional monarchy, the 1893 overthrow of Queen
18 Lili'uokalani, and the annexation by the United States; and

19
20 WHEREAS, the continued omission or marginalization of 'ōiwi
21 perspectives in education perpetuates historical erasure,
22 contributes to cultural and identity loss, and undermines the
23 academic and social confidence of Native Hawaiian students; and

24
25 WHEREAS, 'ōiwi education frameworks grounded in mo'okū'auhau
26 (genealogy), mo'olelo (oral traditions), mele (songs), and 'ike
27 kūpuna (ancestral knowledge) provide culturally affirming,
28 academically rigorous pathways that benefit all learners and
29 promote civic understanding and justice; and



1 WHEREAS, research demonstrates that culturally relevant and
2 community-informed curriculum increases student engagement,
3 academic performance, and long-term educational outcomes—
4 especially for Native Hawaiian and other native youth; and
5

6 WHEREAS, in 2025 at the 66th Annual Convention of the
7 Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs held in Keauhou, Kona, the
8 convention body adopted Resolution No. 2025-54 "URGING THE STATE
9 OF HAWAII AND ITS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO MANDATE THE
10 TEACHING OF PRE-1959 HAWAIIAN HISTORY FROM AN INDIGENOUS
11 PERSPECTIVE, BEGINNING NO LATER THAN SCHOOL YEAR 2030-2031,
12 ACROSS ALL GRADE LEVELS WHERE SOCIAL STUDIES IS TAUGHT; and
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14 WHEREAS, postponing these essential curriculum reforms
15 until the 2030-2031 school year would place our students at an
16 avoidable educational disadvantage; and
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18 WHEREAS, the State of Hawaii must take action now to meet
19 its constitutional obligations and correct systemic inequities
20 within the public education system; now, therefore,
21

22 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third
23 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2026, the
24 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of
25 Education is urged to mandate the teaching of pre-1959 Hawaiian
26 history from an indigenous perspective, beginning no later than
27 the 2027-2028 school years, across all grade levels where social
28 studies is taught; and
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30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education
31 engage Native Hawaiian educators, historians, cultural
32 practitioners, and community-based organizations in a
33 transparent and accountable process to develop curriculum
34 standards, approved materials, and teacher training programs
35 aligned with 'ōiwi pedagogy; and
36

37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
38 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Department of
39 Education, the Board of Education, and the Office of Hawaiian
40 Education.
41
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S.C.R. NO. 17

OFFERED BY:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. M. M.', written over a horizontal line.

