

JAN 28 2026

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## 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

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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

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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

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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

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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

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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  
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6        WHEREAS, in 2025 at the 66<sup>th</sup> 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,  
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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  
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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.  
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S.C.R. NO. 17

OFFERED BY: 