

JAN 28 2026

SENATE 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

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

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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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31 WHEREAS, research demonstrates that culturally relevant and
32 community-informed curriculum increases student engagement,



1 academic performance, and long-term educational outcomes—
2 especially for Native Hawaiian and other native youth; and
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4 WHEREAS, in 2025 at the 66th Annual Convention of the
5 Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs held in Keauhou, Kona, the
6 convention body adopted Resolution No. 2025-54 "URGING THE STATE
7 OF HAWAII AND ITS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO MANDATE THE
8 TEACHING OF PRE-1959 HAWAIIAN HISTORY FROM AN INDIGENOUS
9 PERSPECTIVE, BEGINNING NO LATER THAN SCHOOL YEAR 2030-2031,
10 ACROSS ALL GRADE LEVELS WHERE SOCIAL STUDIES IS TAUGHT; and
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12 WHEREAS, postponing these essential curriculum reforms
13 until the 2030-2031 school year would place our students at an
14 avoidable educational disadvantage; and
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16 WHEREAS, the State of Hawaii must take action now to meet
17 its constitutional obligations and correct systemic inequities
18 within the public education system; now, therefore,
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20 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third
21 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2026,
22 that the Department of Education is urged to mandate the
23 teaching of pre-1959 Hawaiian history from an indigenous
24 perspective, beginning no later than the 2027-2028 school years,
25 across all grade levels where social studies is taught; and
26

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education
28 engage Native Hawaiian educators, historians, cultural
29 practitioners, and community-based organizations in a
30 transparent and accountable process to develop curriculum
31 standards, approved materials, and teacher training programs
32 aligned with 'ōiwi pedagogy; and
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34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
35 Resolution be transmitted to the Department of Education, the
36 Board of Education, and the Office of Hawaiian Education.
37

38 OFFERED BY: 

