

MAR 16 2026

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO CONVENE A SHARED-
DECISION MAKING COMMITTEE TO DEVELOP AN ACTION PLAN TO
ESTABLISH A K-12 KAIAPUNI SCHOOL IN KAPOLEI.

1 WHEREAS, the State has a duty to ensure access to ‘Ōlelo
2 Hawai‘i education pursuant to article X, section 4, of the
3 Constitution of the State of Hawai‘i, which requires the State to
4 "promote the study of Hawaiian culture, history, and language";
5 and

6

7 WHEREAS, the establishment of Kaiapuni schools, or Hawaiian
8 language immersion schools, which educate in ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i, is
9 one way the State is intentionally adhering to its
10 constitutional obligations and fulfilling its commitment to
11 preserving Hawaiian language for future generations; and

12

13 WHEREAS, accordingly, the Board of Education is
14 implementing a Kaiapuni Strategic Plan to grow Kaiapuni programs
15 to meet demand and expand access across the State; and

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17 WHEREAS, there are only three Kaiapuni schools on O‘ahu that
18 serve students in grades kindergarten through twelve, Ke Kula
19 Kaiapuni ‘O Pū‘ōhala and Ke Kula ‘O Samuel M. Kamakau in Kāne‘ohe
20 and Ke Kula Kaiapuni ‘O Ānuenue in Honolulu; and

21

22 WHEREAS, Kapolei High School currently only offers Kaiapuni
23 education for grade nine, and Kapolei Middle School only offers
24 Kaiapuni education for grades seven and eight; and

25

26 WHEREAS, many students in the ‘Ewa land district and the
27 surrounding land districts of Wai‘anae and Waiialua are forced to
28 commute to Honolulu to pursue Kaiapuni education; and

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1 WHEREAS, forty-two percent of Ke Kula Kaiapuni 'O Ānuenuē
2 students who travel to school come from the 'Ewa and Wai'anae
3 areas; and
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5 WHEREAS, this creates significant barriers for students in
6 continuing Hawaiian language education and leaves many students
7 who reside outside of Honolulu without a clear pathway to
8 continue their Kaiapuni education cohesively and throughout high
9 school; and
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11 WHEREAS, the neighborhood boards of Pearl City,
12 Makakilo/Kapolei/Honokai Hale, and 'Ewa have all adopted
13 resolutions in support of establishing a K-12 self-contained
14 Hawaiian immersion school in Kapolei; and
15

16 WHEREAS, a shared decision-making committee is a
17 collaborative process where stakeholders collectively make
18 decisions and facilitate planning; and
19

20 WHEREAS, establishing a shared decision-making committee
21 comprised of Hawaiian immersion educators, community members,
22 parents, and administrators will facilitate effective action
23 planning and resource allocation as well as ensure the K-12
24 Kaiapuni in Kapolei meets the unique needs of current and future
25 students; now, therefore,
26

27 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third
28 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2026, the
29 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of
30 Education is requested to convene a shared decision-making
31 committee to develop an action plan to establish a K-12 Kaiapuni
32 school in Kapolei; and
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34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the shared decision-making
35 committee is requested to consist of eleven members, serving for
36 two-year terms, as follows:
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- 38 (1) The Superintendent of Education, or the
39 Superintendent's designee;
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- 1 (2) Principals from relevant middle schools and high
- 2 schools, such as Kapolei Middle School and Kapolei
- 3 High School, or their designees;
- 4
- 5 (3) Three current Kaiapuni teachers from schools such as:
- 6
- 7 (A) Kapolei Middle School;
- 8
- 9 (B) Kapolei High School; and
- 10
- 11 (C) A feeder elementary immersion school such as
- 12 Waiiau Elementary School or Nānākuli Elementary
- 13 School;
- 14
- 15 (4) The Dual Chancellor for Leeward Community College and
- 16 the University of Hawai'i-West O'ahu, or the
- 17 Chancellor's designee;
- 18
- 19 (5) A professor or administrator from either Leeward
- 20 Community College or the University of Hawai'i-West
- 21 O'ahu with experience in education and teacher
- 22 training; and
- 23
- 24 (6) Three community members as follows:
- 25
- 26 (A) Two members of relevant community-based, school-
- 27 based, or cultural nonprofit organizations; and
- 28
- 29 (B) One parent of a current student of Ke Kula
- 30 Kaiapuni 'O Kapolei; and
- 31

32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the action plan is requested to
 33 outline goals, objectives, and strategies necessary to achieve a
 34 new Kaiapuni K-12 school in Kapolei, including, but not limited
 35 to, the following:

- 36
- 37 (1) Facility planning and site selection;
- 38
- 39 (2) Kumu Kaiapuni recruitment and retention;
- 40
- 41 (3) Curriculum and instruction planning;
- 42



- 1 (4) Resource allocation policies;
- 2
- 3 (5) Recommendations to the Department of Education to
- 4 standardize, streamline, and facilitate the
- 5 establishment or expansion of new or existing Kaiapuni
- 6 schools statewide; and
- 7
- 8 (6) Any additional policies as determined by the shared
- 9 decision-making committee; and

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 11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the action plan is requested to
 12 include a process for phasing in Kaiapuni education by:

- 13
- 14 (1) Securing a permanent site for a K-12 Kaiapuni school
- 15 in Kapolei to be used by kindergarten, first, and
- 16 second grades by the 2027-2028 school year;
- 17
- 18 (2) Integrating grades three, four, five, and six by the
- 19 2028-2029 school year; and
- 20
- 21 (3) Integrating middle school and high school students
- 22 once all other grades are phased in; and
- 23

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is
 25 requested to allocate four faculty positions and one
 26 administrative position to support Kaiapuni education in the
 27 2027-2028 school year and additional faculty and administrative
 28 positions in the following school years based on enrollment
 29 numbers of current and potential Kaiapuni students that live in
 30 the 'Ewa, Waialua, and Wai'anae land districts; and

31
 32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the decision-making committee
 33 is requested to submit a report of its findings and
 34 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the
 35 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
 36 the Regular Session of 2027; and

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 38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 39 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the
 40 Board of Education; Superintendent of Education; Dual Chancellor
 41 for Leeward Community College and the University of Hawai'i-West
 42 O'ahu; and Campbell-Kapolei Complex Area Superintendent.



S.C.R. NO. 162

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OFFERED BY: Mike Gabbard

