
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 Hawaii
3 State Constitution, which requires the State to "promote the
4 study of Hawaiian culture, history, and language"; and
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6 WHEREAS, the establishment of Kaiapuni schools, or Hawaiian
7 language immersion schools, which educate in ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i, is
8 one way the State is intentionally adhering to its
9 constitutional obligations and fulfilling its commitment to
10 preserving the Hawaiian language for future generations; and
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12 WHEREAS, accordingly, the Board of Education is
13 implementing a Kaiapuni Strategic Plan to grow Kaiapuni programs
14 to meet demand and expand access across the State; and
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16 WHEREAS, there are only three Kaiapuni schools on O‘ahu that
17 serve students in grades kindergarten through twelve, Ke Kula
18 Kaiapuni ‘O Pū‘ōhala and Ke Kula ‘O Samuel M. Kamakau Laboratory
19 Public Charter School in Kāne‘ohe and Ke Kula Kaiapuni ‘O Ānuenue
20 in Honolulu; and
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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
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26 WHEREAS, many students in the ‘Ewa land district and the
27 surrounding land districts of Wai‘anae and Waialua 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, Makakilo-
12 Kapolei-Honokai Hale, and 'Ewa have all adopted resolutions in
13 support of establishing a K-12 self-contained Hawaiian immersion
14 school in Kapolei; and
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16 WHEREAS, a shared decision-making committee is a
17 collaborative process where stakeholders collectively make
18 decisions and facilitate planning; and
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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 twelve 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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41 (2) Principals from relevant elementary, middle,
42 intermediate, and high schools, such as Nānākuli



1 Elementary School, Waiiau Elementary School, Kapolei
2 Middle School, and Kapolei High School, or their
3 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) Four community members to be invited to participate on
25 the committee as follows:
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27 (A) Two members of relevant community-based, school-
28 based, or cultural nonprofit organizations;
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30 (B) One parent of a current student of Ke Kula
31 Kaiapuni 'O Kapolei; and
32

33 (C) One parent of a current student of an elementary
34 Kaiapuni program;
35

36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the action plan is requested to
37 outline goals, objectives, and strategies necessary to achieve a
38 new Kaiapuni K-12 school in Kapolei, including but not limited
39 to the following:
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41 (1) Facility planning and site selection;
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- 1 (2) Kumu Kaiapuni recruitment and retention;
- 2
- 3 (3) Curriculum and instruction planning;
- 4
- 5 (4) Resource allocation policies;
- 6
- 7 (5) Predicted statewide impact on existing Kaiapuni
- 8 schools and programs;
- 9
- 10 (6) Recommendations to the Department of Education to
- 11 standardize, streamline, and facilitate the
- 12 establishment or expansion of new or existing Kaiapuni
- 13 schools statewide; and
- 14
- 15 (7) Any additional policies as determined by the shared
- 16 decision-making committee; and
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18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the action plan is requested to
 19 include a process for phasing in Kaiapuni education by:

- 20
- 21 (1) Securing a permanent site for a K-12 Kaiapuni school
- 22 in Kapolei to be used by kindergarten, first, and
- 23 second grades by the 2027-2028 school year;
- 24
- 25 (2) Integrating grades three, four, five, and six by the
- 26 2028-2029 school year; and
- 27
- 28 (3) Integrating middle school, intermediate school, and
- 29 high school students once all other grades are phased
- 30 in; and
- 31

32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is
 33 requested to allocate four faculty positions and one
 34 administrative position to support Kaiapuni education in the
 35 2027-2028 school year and additional faculty and administrative
 36 positions in the following school years based on enrollment
 37 numbers of current and potential Kaiapuni students that live in
 38 the 'Ewa, Waialua, and Wai'anae land districts; and

39

40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the decision-making committee
 41 is requested to submit a progress report on the status of the



1 action plan to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior
2 to the convening of the Regular Sessions of 2027 and 2028; and
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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the decision-making committee
5 is requested to submit a final report of its findings and
6 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the
7 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
8 the Regular Session of 2029; and
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10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
11 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the
12 Board of Education, Superintendent of Education, Dual Chancellor
13 for Leeward Community College and the University of Hawai'i-West
14 O'ahu, and Campbell-Kapolei Complex Area Superintendent.

