

FEB 24 2026

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

SUPPORTING THE NATIVE HAWAIIAN INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY WORKING
GROUP'S REQUEST FOR RESOURCES AND TIMELINE EXTENSION FOR
FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027.

1 WHEREAS, the State has a unique constitutional mandate
2 under Article XII, Section 7, Hawaii State Constitution to
3 protect and preserve the rights of Native Hawaiians, including
4 cultural and traditional rights, making the preservation of
5 Native Hawaiian intellectual property a responsibility of the
6 State; and
7

8 WHEREAS, the Native Hawaiian Intellectual Property Working
9 Group (Working Group) was established by H.C.R. No. 108, H.D. 1,
10 S.D. 1 (2023), to address the complexities of protecting Native
11 Hawaiian intellectual property, with a composition that includes
12 representatives from respected Native Hawaiian organizations,
13 including the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, State Foundation on
14 Culture and the Arts, Native Hawaiian Legal Corporation, Ka Huli
15 Ao Center for Excellence in Native Hawaiian Law, Kāhuli Leo Le‘a,
16 ‘Ihikapalaumaewa Foundation, Kawaihuelani Center for Hawaiian
17 Language, and Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs; and
18

19 WHEREAS, the Working Group was tasked with creating and
20 developing solutions to prevent Native Hawaiian intellectual
21 property from being incorrectly appropriated and was requested
22 to submit its recommendations, including any proposed
23 legislation, to the Legislature no later than forty days prior
24 to the convening of the Regular Session of 2025; and
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26 WHEREAS, the Working Group requires additional time and
27 resources to conduct culturally appropriate community
28 consultations, which are critical for ensuring that solutions
29 reflect the collective aspirations, insights, and concerns of
30 Native Hawaiians; and
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1 WHEREAS, extending resources to the Working Group aligns
2 with the State's commitment to reconciliation and justice for
3 Native Hawaiian people by actively supporting their
4 self-determination and control over cultural assets; and
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6 WHEREAS, studies have shown that indigenous communities
7 that retain control over their cultural resources experience
8 greater economic stability, community resilience, and cultural
9 vibrancy, all of which are essential to the well-being of Native
10 Hawaiian communities; and
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12 WHEREAS, the State's economy benefits from Hawaiian culture
13 as a central part of its tourism industry, with \$5,600,000,000
14 in gross domestic product deriving from Hawaii's creative
15 industries, making it imperative to preserve the integrity of
16 Native Hawaiian intellectual property to ensure cultural
17 authenticity and respect; and
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19 WHEREAS, this body acknowledges the importance of the
20 Working Group's mission and the complexity of their work, which
21 requires sufficient time and resources to ensure thorough and
22 meaningful outcomes for the Native Hawaiian community; now,
23 therefore,
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25 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third
26 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2026, the
27 House of Representatives concurring, that this body supports the
28 Native Hawaiian Intellectual Property Working Group's request
29 for resources and timeline extension for fiscal year 2026-2027;
30 and
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32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
33 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the
34 Native Hawaiian Intellectual Property Working Group.
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OFFERED BY: _____

