

FEB 24 2026

SENATE 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
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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 ‘Thikapalaumaewa Foundation, Kawaihuelani Center for Hawaiian
17 Language, and Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs; and
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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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32 WHEREAS, extending resources to the Working Group aligns
33 with the State's commitment to reconciliation and justice for
34 Native Hawaiian people by actively supporting their
35 self-determination and control over cultural assets; and



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2 WHEREAS, studies have shown that indigenous communities
3 that retain control over their cultural resources experience
4 greater economic stability, community resilience, and cultural
5 vibrancy, all of which are essential to the well-being of Native
6 Hawaiian communities; and
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8 WHEREAS, the State's economy benefits from Hawaiian culture
9 as a central part of its tourism industry, with \$5,600,000,000
10 in gross domestic product deriving from Hawaii's creative
11 industries, making it imperative to preserve the integrity of
12 Native Hawaiian intellectual property to ensure cultural
13 authenticity and respect; and
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15 WHEREAS, this body acknowledges the importance of the
16 Working Group's mission and the complexity of their work, which
17 requires sufficient time and resources to ensure thorough and
18 meaningful outcomes for the Native Hawaiian community; now,
19 therefore,
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21 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third
22 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2026,
23 that this body supports the Native Hawaiian Intellectual
24 Property Working Group's request for resources and timeline
25 extension for fiscal year 2026-2027; and
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27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
28 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Native
29 Hawaiian Intellectual Property Working Group.
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OFFERED BY:  _____