

MAR 16 2026

SENATE RESOLUTION

ENCOURAGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO EXPAND THE HAWAIIAN
IMMERSION PROGRAM.

1 WHEREAS, Ka Papahana Kaiapuni immersion schools provide
2 kindergarten through twelfth grade Hawaiian language education
3 to develop the Kaiapuni lens connecting future generations with
4 Hawaiian ways of knowing and being; and
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6 WHEREAS, the Department of Education has experienced
7 significant growth in the demand for Hawaiian language immersion
8 education offered in Ka Papahana Kaiapuni schools; and
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10 WHEREAS, enrollment for Ka Papahana Kaiapuni schools has
11 grown by approximately one thousand four hundred students over
12 the past decade; and
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14 WHEREAS, resources dedicated to supporting Ka Papahana
15 Kaiapuni education programming have consistently declined despite
16 the growing demand; and
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18 WHEREAS, a longstanding issue that continues to impede the
19 success and growth of Hawaiian immersion schools is the shortage
20 of qualified teachers; now, therefore,
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22 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third
23 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2026,
24 that the Department of Education is encouraged to work with the
25 Office of Hawaiian Education to expand Kaiapuni immersion in
26 Department of Education schools and create pathways for teachers
27 based on funding availability; and
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29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is
30 encouraged to work with the Office of Hawaiian Education to give
31 consideration for kindergarten through twelfth grade level
32 instruction in a continuum of complex districts based on data
33 analysis of needs; and
34



S.R. NO. 78

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
2 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of
3 Education and Superintendent of Education.
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OFFERED BY:

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and flourishes, is written over a horizontal line.