

MAR 14 2007

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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE AUDITOR TO CONDUCT A FINANCIAL AND PROGRAM AUDIT  
OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION'S HAWAIIAN STUDIES PROGRAM.

1           WHEREAS, section 4, article X of the Constitution of the  
2 State of Hawaii required the State to establish a Hawaiian  
3 education program in all public schools; and  
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5           WHEREAS, the Hawaiian studies programs in kindergarten  
6 through sixth grade help students develop an understanding and  
7 appreciation of Hawaiian culture, history, language, values, and  
8 practices; and  
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10           WHEREAS, Hawaiian studies programs include a component  
11 called kupuna, who are elders or "grandparents" and makua,  
12 "parents", who have expertise in Hawaiian cultural heritage and  
13 assist classroom teachers in Hawaiian studies instruction; and  
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15           WHEREAS, the program curriculum has become outdated and  
16 requires renewed support from the Department of Education to  
17 maintain its viability; and  
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19           WHEREAS, in response to the outdated curriculum and budget  
20 cuts, kupuna and makua have established the organization, Ka Lei  
21 Papahi o Kakuhihewa, dedicated to maintaining the integrity of  
22 Hawaiian studies programs and ensuring that Hawaiian studies  
23 programs remain a permanent part of the Department of  
24 Education's curriculum; and  
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26           WHEREAS, kupuna and makua spend a great deal of time  
27 preparing lesson plans for classes in Hawaiian studies programs  
28 without receiving compensation or reimbursement for classroom  
29 supplies purchased with their personal funds; and  
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31           WHEREAS, despite the efforts by kupuna and makua, many  
32 public elementary schools have terminated their Hawaiian studies  
33 program; and



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2 WHEREAS, program closure is due in part to budget problems,  
3 including the inconsistent use of "A" and "B" budget funds; and  
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5 WHEREAS, there is evidence that some schools may be paying  
6 kupuna and makua instructors at the educational assistant rate,  
7 rather than the part-time teacher rate resulting in kupuna and  
8 makua receiving as much as fifty per cent less than they are  
9 rightfully entitled to; and  
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11 WHEREAS, a financial and program audit of the Department of  
12 Education's Hawaiian studies program would enhance public  
13 awareness of the program's budget and spending, thereby  
14 increasing transparency and accountability; now, therefore,  
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16 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth  
17 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2007, the  
18 House of Representatives concurring, that the Auditor is  
19 requested to conduct a financial audit of the Department of  
20 Education's Hawaiian studies programs, specifically with regard  
21 to kupuna, to clarify the numerous inconsistencies in budget and  
22 spending; and  
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24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Auditor is requested to  
25 review all moneys appropriated and expended for Hawaiian studies  
26 programs at both the Department of Education and individual  
27 school levels, including "A" funds for salary and "B" funds for  
28 all other expenditures; and  
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30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is  
31 requested to cooperate with and assist the Auditor in the  
32 performance of this audit; and  
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34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Auditor is requested to  
35 conduct a program audit of Hawaiian studies programs to identify  
36 any areas of concern regarding program delivery or  
37 implementation with specific regard to any inconsistencies in  
38 kupuna assignment, teaching schedules, and pay rates; and  
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40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Auditor is requested to  
41 submit a report of any audit findings and recommendations  
42 including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later  
43 than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session  
44 of 2008; and



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2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
3 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, the  
4 Chairperson of the Board of Education, the Superintendent of  
5 Education, and the Auditor.

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OFFERED BY: Norman Sakonfi

