
ALA MOANA-KAKA`AKO NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD RESOLUTION DRAFT

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO EXPAND THE KOREAN LANGUAGE PROGRAM FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS WITHIN THE KAIMUKI-MCKINGLEY-ROOSEVELT COMPLEX.

WHEREAS, The Republic of Korea has a rich history dating back to 2000 BCE, starting from a monarchy and now a democratic nation as one of the U.S.'s key allies through the Mutual Defense Treaty. About 37,000 U.S. service members stationed along the Demilitarized Zone; and

WHEREAS, South Korea's economy has grown to become the 11th largest globally, and is now the 7th-largest U.S. trading partner, has a trillion-dollar economy and is a major investor in Hawaii; and

WHEREAS, the global rise of K-pop, K-drama, K-beauty, and Korean fashion has made Korean culture a major influence, especially among American youth. This cultural "Hallyu" (Korean Wave) has spurred interest in the Korean language. Korean cultural exports are increasingly shaping global trends, and learning the language provides deeper access to these influential sectors; and

WHEREAS, South Korea has strong economic ties with Hawaii. In 2024, Hawaii exported 33.5 million dollars in goods to South Korea, making it the state's largest market. Korean nationals own luxury properties in Honolulu, and Korean visitors contribute \$275 million annually to Hawaii's tourism industry; and

WHEREAS, Interest in learning Korean is growing across the U.S. About 8 million people use Duolingo to study Korean, and university enrollments in the language have increased by nearly 14%.

WHEREAS, At the University of Hawaii, Korean is one of the most popular foreign language program, and The Korean Language Flagship Center at the University of Hawaii Mānoa was the first Korean program created in the United States in 2002.

WHEREAS, the success of Korean language programs in Hawaii schools, such as Moanalua High and Salt Lake Elementary, demonstrates high demand. At Moanalua, many students request geographic exceptions to join the Korean program, and Salt Lake Elementary saw enrollment double in its first year. These examples show the potential for expanding Korean language offerings statewide. Currently, Korean Language is also offered at Kalani High School, but not in other schools within the Honolulu district; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Ala Moana-Kaka`ako Neighborhood Board #11, Regular Session of 2025, that the Department of Education is requested to expand the current Korean Language course offerings for students within the Honolulu district; specifically the Kaimuki-McKinley-Roosevelt complex that services students from Ala Moana-Kaka`ako; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we are in support of House Bill #471 and companion Senate Bill #876; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Hawaii State Board of Education; Superintendent of the Hawaii State

Department of Education; Governor of the State of Hawaii; Lt. Governor of the State of Hawaii; Chairs of the Education and Higher Education committees within the Hawaii State Legislature; and all current elected Representatives and Senators within the Hawaii State Legislature.

SIGNED BY:

CHAIR OF THE ALA MOANA-KAKA`AKO
NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD