



MĀNOA NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD NO. 7

NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION • 925 DILLINGHAM BOULEVARD SUITE 160 • HONOLULU, HAWAII, 96817
PHONE (808) 768-3710 • FAX (808) 768-3711 • WEBSITE: honolulu.gov/nco

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

Mānoa Neighborhood Board No. 7
February 5, 2025

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

WHEREAS, South Korea's economy has grown to become the 11th largest globally, 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, and this cultural "Hallyu" (Korean Wave) has spurred interest in the Korean language, causing Korean cultural exports to increasingly shape global trends, so that learning the language provides deeper access to these influential sectors; and

WHEREAS, South Korea has strong economic ties with Hawaii, as, in 2024, Hawaii exported 33.5 million dollars in goods to South Korea, making it the state's largest market, while 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., as about 8 million people use Duolingo to study Korean, and university enrollments in the language have increased by nearly 14%; and

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

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, and though Korean Language is also offered at Kalani High School, it is not offered in other schools within the Honolulu district; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Mānoa Neighborhood Board #7 that the Department of Education is encouraged to expand the current Korean Language course offerings for students within the Honolulu district: specifically the Kaimuki-McKinley-Roosevelt complex that services students from Mānoa; 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.



Oahu's Neighborhood Board system – Established 1973

This resolution was adopted on February 5, 2025 by a vote of 9-0-1; (AYE: Robert Zane, Whitney Bosel, Dave Nagaji, Elton Fukumoto, Diane Chong, Christopher Moylan, Jason Demarco, Patti Kawano, and Robert Fox; NAY: None; ABSTAIN: Clyde Lewman).

Submitted By: *D. Nagaji*
Dave Nagaji, Board Chair