

COUNTY COUNCIL

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Council Services Division
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January 7, 2026

Livingston "Jack" Wong, Chief Executive Officer
Kamehameha Schools
Via Email Only: stwong@ksbe.edu and ksrc@ksbe.edu

Dear Mr. Wong:

Enclosed for your information and files is a certified copy of Resolution No. 2026-01 – RESOLUTION SUPPORTING AND REAFFIRMING THE KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS' ADMISSIONS POLICY, MISSION, AND ITS CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE NATIVE HAWAIIAN COMMUNITY, which was approved by the Kauai County Council on January 7, 2026.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or Council Services Staff at (808) 241-4188.

Sincerely,

JADE K. FOUNTAIN-TANIGAWA
County Clerk, County of Kauai

:dmc
Enclosure

COUNTY COUNCIL

COUNTY OF KAUĀ'I

Resolution

No. 2026-01

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING AND REAFFIRMING THE KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS' ADMISSIONS POLICY, MISSION, AND ITS CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE NATIVE HAWAIIAN COMMUNITY

WHEREAS, Princess Bernice Pauahi Pākī was born on December 19, 1831, the *hiapo* of Abner Pākī and Laura Konia, in their family home known as 'Aikupika in Honolulu; her father was a high chief from Moloka'i who served in the House of Nobles and as an Assistant Judge of the Supreme Court, and her mother was an *ali'i* who served in the House of Nobles; and under the Hawaiian tradition of *hānai*, Princess Pauahi was raised by Kīna'u, eldest daughter of Kamehameha I, and her husband Mataio Kekūanāo'a, Governor of O'ahu, as their own; and

WHEREAS, Princess Bernice Pauahi Bishop ("Princess Pauahi") witnessed the rapid decline of the Native Hawaiian population during the 19th century due to disease, cultural disruption, and displacement from ancestral lands, and through her 1883 will established the Princess Bernice Pauahi Bishop Estate ("Bishop Estate"), a charitable trust dedicated to founding schools for Native Hawaiian children; and

WHEREAS, Princess Pauahi believed that education was essential to the survival, advancement, and well-being of the Hawaiian people, and expressly directed the trustees of Bishop Estate to create the Kamehameha Schools, giving preference to "Hawaiians of pure or part aboriginal blood," with special care for orphans and indigent children; and

WHEREAS, following Princess Pauahi's passing in 1884, the Kamehameha Schools were formally established in 1887 and have since served as a foundational educational institution for Native Hawaiians across the *pae 'āina*; and

WHEREAS, the illegal overthrow of the Hawaiian Kingdom in 1893 exacerbated the social, cultural, and economic challenges Princess Pauahi sought to remedy, and these impacts continue to affect Native Hawaiians, including those living on the island of Kauā'i; and

WHEREAS, the United States formally acknowledged its role in the overthrow through Public Law 103-150 (the "Apology Resolution"), which also recognized the need for reconciliation between the United States and Native Hawaiians; and

WHEREAS, since 1910, Congress has enacted more than 250 statutes relating to Native Hawaiians, including the Native Hawaiian Education Act, which recognizes the unique educational needs of the Native Hawaiian community; and

WHEREAS, despite these efforts, Native Hawaiians continue to experience disparities in educational outcomes, economic opportunity, and access to culturally grounded learning environments; and

WHEREAS, the Kamehameha Schools' admissions policy—designed as a remedy to historic and ongoing disadvantage—has been repeatedly challenged in federal courts yet consistently upheld, including a significant 2006 ruling by the United States Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals that affirmed its legality and cultural purpose; and

WHEREAS, new legal challenges, including one brought by Students for Fair Admissions, threaten the 140-year-old admissions policy specifically crafted to fulfill Pauahi's charitable intent and support the educational needs of Native Hawaiians; and

WHEREAS, the Kamehameha Schools continues to honor Princess Pauahi's legacy through its three (3) K-12 campuses, thirty (30) preschools, extensive scholarship programs, community collaborations, 'āina-based education initiatives, and outreach programs benefiting families statewide, including on Kaua'i, all funded through its private endowment without reliance on federal funding; and

WHEREAS, the Council of the County of Kaua'i ("Council") recognizes the profound cultural, educational, and historical importance of the Kamehameha Schools and believes that Princess Pauahi's legacy should be preserved and protected for present and future generations of Native Hawaiians; and

WHEREAS, the Council further supports the trustees of the Bishop Estate in fulfilling their fiduciary responsibilities to uphold the charitable trust established by Princess Pauahi and to ensure its mission remains intact and free from unwarranted interference; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE COUNTY OF KAUAI, STATE OF HAWAII, that the Council strongly supports and reaffirms the Kamehameha Schools' admissions policy, mission, and its contributions to the Native Hawaiian community, and the preservation of Princess Bernice Pauahi Bishop's legacy for future generations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Council urges all levels of government to respect Princess Pauahi's charitable intent and the legal and cultural foundations of the Kamehameha Schools' admissions policy.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this Resolution shall be transmitted to Governor Josh Green, M.D., Senate President Ronald D. Kouchi, Speaker of the House Nadine K. Nakamura, Livingston "Jack" Wong, Chief Executive Officer of the Kamehameha Schools, and County of Kaua'i Mayor Derek S.K. Kawakami.

Introduced by:



MEL RAPOZO



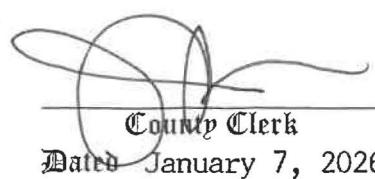
KIPUKAI KUALI'I

V:\RESOLUTIONS\2024-2026 TERM\Resolution - Supporting and Reaffirming the Kamehameha Schools Mission and Its Contributions to the Native Hawaiian Community (MR KK AAO_dmc.docx

	Aye	Nay	Excused	Recused
Bulosan	X			
Carvalho			X	
Cowden	X			
Holland	X			
Kaneshiro	X			
Kuali'i	X			
Rapoza	X			
Total	6	0	1	0

Certificate Of Adoption

We hereby certify that Resolution No. 2026-01 was adopted by the Council of the County of Kaua'i, State of Hawai'i, Lihu'e, Kaua'i, Hawai'i, on January 7, 2026.


County Clerk
Dated January 7, 2026
Chairman & Presiding Officer