

MAR 08 2024

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, TO PRODUCE A PLAN FOR ADHERING TO
SCHOOL COUNSELOR BEST PRACTICES.

1 WHEREAS, school counselors play a critical role in ensuring
2 students' academic, career, social, and emotional development
3 and in promoting equity and access to opportunities and
4 educational experiences for all students; and
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6 WHEREAS, school counselors support students' postsecondary
7 access and success by helping them navigate the college
8 admissions process, explore career opportunities, and develop
9 essential life skills; and
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11 WHEREAS, school counselors also provide preventative and
12 responsive services, such as individual student planning and
13 systems support, to help students overcome barriers that may
14 impede their academic and postsecondary success; and
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16 WHEREAS, just half of Hawaii public school graduates in the
17 2022-2023 school year enrolled in a postsecondary education
18 institution in the fall after graduation; and
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20 WHEREAS, students are at risk of the "summer melt"
21 phenomenon, whereby about ten to twenty percent of high school
22 graduates who apply and are accepted to college - most of which
23 are low-income - choose not to attend; and
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25 WHEREAS, the progression of students from high school to
26 postsecondary education and career readiness requires year-round
27 support, including during the summer months when important
28 transitions occur; and
29



S.C.R. NO. 92

1 WHEREAS, having a twelve-month school counselor can ensure
2 continuity of support for students, particularly for those who
3 may not have access to such support outside of school; and
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5 WHEREAS, grant-funded summer transition programs through
6 local organizations, such as Hawaii P-20, have served more than
7 four thousand students between 2020 and 2023, helping them
8 access over \$3,500,000 in scholarships; and
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10 WHEREAS, students also benefit from more individualized
11 attention from their school counselors; and
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13 WHEREAS, the American School Counselor Association (ASCA)
14 recommends a student-to-school counselor ratio of two-hundred-
15 to-one to effectively address the comprehensive needs of all
16 students, yet just sixty-two percent of Hawaii public middle and
17 high schools meet this recommendation; and
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19 WHEREAS, the ASCA recommends that a minimum of eighty
20 percent of a school counselor's time should be spent in direct
21 and indirect student services, yet Hawaii public middle and high
22 school counselors report only being able to spend seventy-three
23 percent of their time on these services; and
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25 WHEREAS, the ASCA provides a clear definition of the
26 appropriate activities that should be the focus of counselors to
27 maximize impact for students, yet Hawaii public intermediate,
28 middle, and high school counselors report having a more clearly
29 defined job description as one of their top needs; now,
30 therefore,
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32 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second
33 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2024, the
34 House of Representatives concurring, that the Board of
35 Education, in partnership with the Department of Education, is
36 requested to produce a plan for adhering to school counselor
37 best practices; and
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39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in preparing the plan, the
40 Board of Education is requested to include the following:
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S.C.R. NO. 92

- 1 (1) How the Department of Education can ensure that every
2 public high school in the State can be staffed with at
3 least one full-time, twelve-month school counselor, in
4 accordance with the ASCA's recommended student-to-
5 counselor ratio;
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- 7 (2) How the Department of Education can ensure that the
8 role and job descriptions of school counselors align
9 with the ASCA's role statement, emphasizing their role
10 in supporting students' postsecondary access and
11 success;
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- 13 (3) How the Department of Education can provide school
14 counselors with the necessary resources and training
15 to effectively support students in their academic,
16 career, social, and emotional development;
17
- 18 (4) How the Department of Education can encourage school
19 administrators to create supportive environments that
20 allow school counselors to focus on direct and
21 indirect services to students, rather than
22 administrative tasks; and
23
- 24 (5) How the Department of Education can support the
25 development and implementation of comprehensive school
26 counseling programs that address the needs of all
27 students; and
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29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education is
30 requested to submit its plan, including any proposed
31 legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior
32 to the convening of the Regular Session of 2025; and
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34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
35 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the
36 Board of Education, Superintendent of Education, and President
37 of the University of Hawaii System.



S.C.R. NO. 92

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OFFERED BY:

R. Allen

