

MAR 07 2024

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# SENATE RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO ENSURE THAT EACH PUBLIC SCHOOL AND PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL IN THE STATE, FROM KINDERGARTEN THROUGH GRADE TWELVE HAS A CERTAIN NUMBER OF MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS.

1 WHEREAS, the State is experiencing an acute mental health  
2 crisis among children and youth; and  
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4 WHEREAS, school psychologists provide direct and indirect  
5 support to evaluate and address students' intellectual  
6 development, academic success, social-emotional learning, and  
7 mental and behavioral health; and  
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9 WHEREAS, school counselors counsel students and parents,  
10 evaluate students' abilities, address learning problems, and  
11 assist students in career and personal development; and  
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13 WHEREAS, school psychologists and school counselors are  
14 crucial to supporting the mental health and well-being of  
15 students in school; and  
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17 WHEREAS, the National Association of School Psychologists  
18 recommends a ratio of one psychologist to five hundred students;  
19 and  
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21 WHEREAS, the American School Counselor Association  
22 recommends a ratio of one school counselor to two hundred fifty  
23 students; and  
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25 WHEREAS, the public schools and public charter schools in  
26 the State presently do not meet the recommendations by the  
27 National Association of School Psychologists; and  
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29 WHEREAS, ensuring adequate staffing levels of mental health  
30 professionals consistent with recommended ratios will provide  
31 Hawaii's keiki with critical support needed to address the  
32 ongoing mental health crisis; now, therefore,  
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# S.R. NO. 32

1 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second  
2 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2024,  
3 that the Department of Education is urged to ensure that each  
4 public school and public charter school in the State, from  
5 kindergarten through grade twelve, employs, or retains under  
6 contract, at least one mental health professional for every two  
7 hundred fifty students enrolled; provided that if a public  
8 school has fewer than two hundred fifty students enrolled the  
9 school is urged to employ or retain under a contract, at least  
10 one mental health professional; and

11  
12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that "mental health professional"  
13 under this concurrent resolution means:

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- 15 (1) A licensed mental health counselor, as defined in  
16 section 453D-1, Hawaii Revised Statutes;
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  - 18 (2) A psychologist licensed to practice psychology under  
19 chapter 465, Hawaii Revised Statutes;
  - 20
  - 21 (3) A person employed as a school psychologist pursuant to  
22 section 465-3(a)(3), Hawaii Revised Statutes;
  - 23
  - 24 (4) A social worker, as defined in section 467E-1, Hawaii  
25 Revised Statutes; or
  - 26
  - 27 (5) A social worker exempt from licensure pursuant to  
28 section 467E-6(2), Hawaii Revised Statutes; and
  - 29

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is  
31 requested to cooperate with other state agencies, as  
32 appropriate, to ensure adequate staffing levels of mental health  
33 professionals in public schools and public charter schools; and  
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35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is  
36 requested to submit a progress report to the Legislature no  
37 later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular  
38 Session of 2025, detailing the progress made toward meeting the  
39 benchmark requiring each public school and public charter school  
40 in the State, from kindergarten through grade twelve, to employ,  
41 or retain under contract, the number of mental health  
42 professionals set forth in this concurrent resolution; and



