

HR-132

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 8:22:34 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joseph Kohn MD	We Are One, Inc. - www.WeAreOne.cc - WAO	Support	No

Comments:

Strongly support Restorative Justice HR132

www.WeAreOne.cc

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Submitted on: 3/17/2021 7:11:17 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lorenn Walker	Hawai'i Friends of Restorative Justice	Support	No

Comments:

Mahalo for your public service.

Hawai'i Friends of Restorative Justice supports this measure for state and charter schools to adopt restorative justice.

We have worked with schools and studied restorative since 1996 and believe it can help improve learning and increase cooperation in schools. It benefits both students, faculty, staff and the community. Here is an early paper describing how RJ was applied to the benefit of the Waialua community of 2000: <http://lorennwalker.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/school-conferencing-2001.pdf>

Mahalo again for your work and for please supporting this resolution.

Aloha, Lorenn Walker, JD, MPH

Director, Hawai'i Friends of Restorative Justice

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Submitted on: 3/16/2021 4:02:32 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dr Amanda Jobbins	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I fully support implementing school-wide restorative justice practices, and as a former educator I am very excited by this proposition.

Indigenous people, like the New Zealand Maori, have used restorative justice for hundreds of years.

In Oakland, California a pilot restorative justice program was implemented in a failing middle school. Within 3 years violence was decreased by 87%. There are innumerable other positive examples across schools and communities throughout the world.

Mahalo

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Submitted on: 3/16/2021 4:14:03 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
John Kneisler	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Yes, I am 100% for this proposition. I am teacher and school-wide restorative justice program will benefit both our children and the whole community. Thank you for your service to the community.

Restorative Justice Fact Sheet

Case example: Denver Public Schools¹

“The Denver Public Schools Restorative Justice Project was implemented to positively and effectively address the growing number of out-of-school suspensions in the district. In the 2004-2005 school year, this number approached 15,000 across the district, a number that has not been seen since.”

The report from 2008-2009 (the fourth year of the program) show these results, comparing the first quarter and the last quarter of the 2008-2009 school year:

A near **60% reduction**
in **tardies** per student.

An almost **90%**
decrease in office

A near **50% reduction**
in **absences** per student

An almost **90% decrease**
in **suspensions.**

Students self-reported:
52% increase in their
stress-management skills.
43% increase in
interpersonal skills.
47% increase in
adaptability.
49% increase in overall
emotional quotient.

“In 2008-2009, **220 cases**
referred for restorative justice
interventions were known to be
in lieu of out-of-school
suspension;
An additional **11 cases** had
reduced length of suspension
due to participation in the RJ
process.”

1. All data from “DPS Restorative Justice Project: Year Three” Year End Report, 2008-2009, prepared and submitted to Denver Public Schools by Myriam L. Baker, Ph.D., *Outcomes, Inc.*. Found online at <http://www.restorativejusticecolorado.org/restorative-justice-in-schools.html>.

Restorative Justice Fact Sheet

Case Example: West Philadelphia High School²

“West Philadelphia High School, widely known as one of Philadelphia’s most dangerous and high-risk schools, on the state’s ‘Persistently Dangerous Schools’ list for six years running, [saw] positive results with restorative practices less than one school year into implementation.”

These statistics compare incidents in 2006-2007 to incidents 2007-2008 (the first year of implementation).

Assaults on
teachers/admin
decreased 76%.

Disorderly conduct
decreased 72%.

Dangerous acts
decreased 52% in the first
year, with an additional 45%
decrease in the second year.

Assaults on students
decreased 60%.

25% decrease in number
of students suspended one time.
20% decrease in number
of students suspended two times.
40% decrease in number
of students suspended more than
three times.

“I think the turning
moment—and I could
see it in the students’
faces—is when they
realized they had a
say. . . that they were
going to be listened to,
they would have input.”

2. Data from these sources: *Improving School Climate: Findings from Schools Implementing Restorative Practices*, by the International Institute of Restorative Justice, 2009, <http://www.iirp.edu/pdf/IIRP-Improving-School-Climate.pdf>; SaferSanerSchools™ at www.saferanerschools.org; and Restorative Justice online at www.restorativejustice.org/RJOB/westphil.

Restorative Justice Fact Sheet

Case Example: Palisades High School and Middle School, PA³

“Palisades High School was the first International Institute for Restorative Practices (IIRP) SaferSanerSchools pilot school . . . the principal [at the time] said that before the program was introduced . . . the level of caring and respect among many students had declined.”

“Restorative practices was introduced at Palisades Middle School (PALMS) in Fall 2000. Previously the school climate was discourteous and disrespectful and altercations were common. PALMS principal Edward Baumgartner said ‘We were suspending 200 students a year for everything from disrespect to not making up gym.’”

Palisades High School

Administrative detentions
decreased **60%** in the fourth
year compared to the first year.

Number of **incidents**
decreased **40%** in the third
year compared to the first year.

Number of **out-of-school-**
suspensions decreased **38%**
in the fourth year compared to the first
year.

Number of **referrals to the**
student office decreased
34% in the fourth year compared to the
third year.

Palisades Middle School

Disciplinary referrals to the
PALMS office decreased **43%**
in a year.

“I used to be one of these
black and white, law and
order guys. Kids had to be held
accountable and the only way to do
that was to kick them out of
school—to show the other kids that
you’re the boss. That doesn’t work. I
didn’t solve problems; I just
postponed them until they
got to high school. Restorative
practices works. We now fix and
solve problems.”

3. Data from *Improving School Climate: Findings from Schools Implementing Restorative Practices*, by the International Institute of Restorative Justice, 2009, <http://www.iirp.edu/pdf/IIRP-Improving-School-Climate.pdf>.

Restorative Justice Fact Sheet

I support this important resolution to have restorative justice implemented in all schools statewide because that will enable an addition to the discipline system in schools that explores with the offenders and their victims solutions that build the community and repair the harm done and prevent unnecessary suspension and punishments which ultimately only alienate and disconnect individuals from the community. Suspensions and severe punishments are the beginning of the school to prison pipeline and must be stopped. This resolution is a beginning of bringing that awareness and consciousness and that restorative mindset to schools and I strongly support it. The accompanying document gives the statistics for various schools where this has been implemented and the statistics strongly show that this is a great addition to our school system.

Genesis S. Young MD

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Submitted on: 3/16/2021 7:17:51 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Anne Allison	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please move forward with the Restorative Justice Programs for schools. This could be a much more holistic, healthy, pono way to decrease conflict, misunderstandings, stress, and trauma for all involved. This seems a very creative way to deal with many issues that detract from children getting a good education and becoming productive citizens and good parents. Mahaol

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Submitted on: 3/16/2021 8:05:51 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sulara James	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Thank you for voting YES! This resolution for our schools will help create peace in our community and in the world by allowing for more connection oriented conflict resolution!

Aloha, Sulara James

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Submitted on: 3/17/2021 8:38:58 AM

Testimony for EDN on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Litman	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Punishment and retributive justice simply are not as effective as a Restorative Justice approach. Sociological research supports the fact that punishment does not develop the kinds of motivations we want to see in healthy, productive members of society. Restorative Justice offers significant benefits:

Benefits to the community

Reduced recidivism. Restorative justice has a high rate of success in reducing repeat offenses. When communities reintegrate their citizens after harm has been repaired, the likelihood of recidivism is greatly reduced. People who have offended have the opportunity to make things right, learn from the process, and put the matter behind them, so they can more easily go on to lead a crime-free life.

Increased safety. With reduced recidivism comes a safer community. Restorative justice empowers individuals to make their neighborhoods and towns safer and more pleasant places to live.

Cost effectiveness. A restorative approach to crime saves the state money by preventing individuals from becoming part of the criminal justice system for offenses that can be resolved at the local level with community and victim participation.

A stronger community. In addition to enhancing the safety and well being of a town or region, community justice centers help to establish a more active citizenship. Volunteering has been shown to build stronger and more cohesive communities and increase the social networks within towns and neighborhoods.

Benefits to victims

Empowerment. When victims are offered the opportunity to have a safe and facilitated dialogue with the person who harmed them, they feel empowered and invested in the process. Victims' needs are acknowledged and considered, which gives them a voice in an often impersonal system.

Meaningful dialogue. Victims are given the opportunity to explain how they were harmed, get answers to their questions, and state what they need the offender to do to make amends.

Recovery and satisfaction. Restorative justice boasts a high rate of victim satisfaction. Many are able to recover what was taken from them, whether it be material possessions or their sense of security and peace of mind. They are more likely to be able to move on from the incident and get back to their daily lives.

Benefits to people who offend

An opportunity to make it right. People who offend have the opportunity to express remorse and apologize for their actions, benefiting themselves as well as their victims.

A way to put the incident behind them. People who offend have the opportunity to make significant and appropriate amends and then move on. They are able to return to their communities knowing that the matter is settled.

A timely resolution. The process of restorative justice is swift in comparison to the criminal justice system, so that offenders can more quickly make meaningful changes in their lives.

A high success rate. Restorative justice has a high rate of compliance or completion. Within a voluntary and non-coercive process, people who have offended tend to follow through on agreements that they have a part in creating.

(Referenced from: <http://cjnvt.org/about-us/benefits-of-restorative-justice/>)

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Submitted on: 3/17/2021 10:46:10 AM

Testimony for EDN on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Duane Elliott	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill.

Duane Elliott

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Submitted on: 3/17/2021 6:27:56 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Janet Pappas	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear EDN and FIN Chairs, Vice Chairs and Committee Members,

I strongly support resolution HR132 to put into practice school-wide restorative justice programs in the State's public and charter schools. These programs could be part of the "Bring Back Better" program that President Biden has envisioned. Each school may have a different program, depending on the needs of the students and school employees.

It's a given that nothing will change if we change nothing. It is our responsibility to ensure that schools are havens of equal justice. We know that our students come from many different backgrounds. Traditions differ; social norms differ; news sources differ. So conversations must occur and everyone must have a voice. If necessary or desired, parents and other family members must also be included.

A just school is a peaceful school. Not quiet, but full of focused activity and engaged students; students who feel accepted and part of the "family". Only then can students learn. If we can foster this atmosphere--where there is no fear--we won't have to worry: kids will learn.

Please pass this resolution (HR132) and provide the means for achieving justice in our schools.

Thank you for listening and for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Jan Pappas - Aiea, Hawaii

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Submitted on: 3/17/2021 9:11:56 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jason schwartz	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am in STRONG support.

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Submitted on: 3/17/2021 9:15:14 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Doug Nelson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support this measure as a means of achieving greater justice and peace in our schools.

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Submitted on: 3/18/2021 12:44:58 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jeff Heisel	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this as it is a great improvement and addition to school protocols.

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Submitted on: 3/18/2021 1:32:59 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Chris Santomauro	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

The Department of Education has antiquated policies for dealing with problematic behavior. Restorative Justice (RJ) is a philosophy that enables communities to focus on building community as the principle means of reducing problem behaviors, and then to have practices to address behavior using a community approach. RJ cannot and should not be implemented without having the funding to address professional development and staffing needs, otherwise it runs the risk of becoming another trend that is bound to fail without proper support. I encourage the legislature to not only adopt this resolution but to also contemplate working with the communities currently using RJ in their schools, as well as those using similar philosophies grounded in Hawaiian culture, such as Foundations of Aloha, to identify what financial support would be needed to sustain programming at the school, complex, and department level, and to work to find funding to do so.

Chris Santomauro

Educator/Restorative Justice Practitioner