
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ERIN'S LAW TASK FORCE.

1 WHEREAS, sexual abuse remains a serious and ongoing threat
2 to the safety, health, and well-being of children and young
3 people in the State of Hawaii; and
4

5 WHEREAS, although programs and Department of Education-
6 approved curricula currently exist in the State of Hawaii for
7 the purpose of providing training to school teachers and staff,
8 and sexual abuse prevention education to students,
9 implementation is not consistent system wide and resources for
10 the provision of training and education are limited; and
11

12 WHEREAS, students in Hawaii may not receive regular,
13 consistent child abuse prevention education, nor are parents
14 informed about child sexual abuse topics; and
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16 WHEREAS, many school teachers and staff do not receive
17 sufficient training on talking to students about child sexual
18 abuse prevention or on the effects of child sexual abuse on
19 children, handling sexual abuse disclosures, and mandated
20 reporting; and
21

22 WHEREAS, laws requiring that public school systems
23 implement a program of regular, consistent sexual abuse
24 prevention education for students, teacher and staff training,
25 and parental involvement have passed in twenty-six other states
26 and the territory of Guam, have been introduced in the
27 legislatures of sixteen others, and represent a national trend
28 in safety, health, and well-being education; and
29

30 WHEREAS, the above-referenced laws are collectively
31 referred to as "Erin's Law" after an Illinois survivor of child
32 sexual abuse, Erin Merryn, who has led the national movement for
33 required programs for child abuse prevention education; now,
34 therefore,



1
2 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
3 Twenty-eighth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
4 Session of 2016, the Senate concurring, that the Department of
5 Education is requested to establish an Erin's Law Task Force;
6 and
7

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to
9 comprise the following:
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- 11 (1) A Deputy Superintendent of the Department of
12 Education, to be designated by the Superintendent;
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- 14 (2) The Director of Health, or the Director's designee;
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- 16 (3) The Director of Human Services, or the Director's
17 designee;
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- 19 (4) The Attorney General, or the Attorney General's
20 designee;
21
- 22 (5) The Executive Director of the Hawaii Youth Services
23 Network, or the Director's designee;
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- 25 (6) The Executive Director of the Sex Abuse Treatment
26 Center, or the Director's designee;
27
- 28 (7) A member of the Senate, to be designated by the Senate
29 President;
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- 31 (8) A member of the House of Representatives, to be
32 designated by the Speaker of the House of
33 Representatives;
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- 35 (9) A non-legislative member of the Keiki Caucus of the
36 Hawaii Legislature, to be designated by the Caucus;
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- 38 (10) A member of the Board of Education to be designated by
39 the Board Chairperson; and
40
- 41 (11) The Executive Directors, or their designees, of four
42 additional community organizations involved in



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1 providing direct services addressing sexual abuse in
2 elementary, intermediate, and high school aged
3 children and youth in Hawaii to be designated by the
4 task force members; and
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6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the member designated by the
7 Senate President and the member designated by the Speaker of the
8 House of Representatives serve as the co-chairs of the task
9 force; and
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11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that an initial meeting be held no
12 later than August 12, 2016; and
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14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to
15 consider the following concepts when reviewing current policies,
16 programs, and curricula and making recommendations for the
17 establishment of a program:
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- 19 (1) Current resources available in the State for educating
20 students in the public school system about sexual
21 abuse prevention;
22
- 23 (2) Existing gaps in child sexual abuse prevention
24 education, including education, training, and
25 information, as needed, for students, school teachers
26 and staff, and parents and guardians;
27
- 28 (3) The Hawaii Content and Performance Standards;
29
- 30 (4) Required elements for an instructional program for
31 students in grades pre-kindergarten through twelve,
32 including but not limited to:
33
 - 34 (A) Techniques to teach children to recognize sexual
35 abuse, equip them with skills to reduce their
36 vulnerability, and encourage them to report the
37 abuse;
38
 - 39 (B) At least four sessions of instruction to
40 reinforce the concepts learned in the program;
41



- 1 (C) Sessions conducted annually, building on skills
2 and knowledge learned in previous years;
3
- 4 (D) Developmentally appropriate instruction for each
5 grade level;
6
- 7 (E) Involvement of students as active learning
8 participants, through such methods as discussion,
9 modeling, and role playing;
10
- 11 (F) Capacity to be delivered by a range of personnel
12 and professionals, including but not limited to
13 teachers, school counselors, and outside agency
14 prevention educators, provided that the personnel
15 and professionals should have a thorough
16 knowledge of child sexual abuse, including how to
17 respond appropriately to sexual abuse
18 disclosures;
19
- 20 (G) An evaluation component with measurable outcomes;
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- 22 (H) Instruction that is culturally sensitive and
23 adaptable for use within varying school contexts,
24 including age, race, and special needs;
25
- 26 (I) The use of evidence-based, age appropriate
27 curricula that uses discussions, role plays,
28 activities, books, or other appropriate
29 educational materials and methods, to the extent
30 possible;
31
- 32 (J) A professional training component for
33 administrators, teachers, and other school
34 personnel on talking to students about child
35 sexual abuse prevention, effects of child sexual
36 abuse on children, handling of sexual abuse
37 disclosures, and mandated reporting; and
38
- 39 (K) A component that encourages parental or guardian
40 involvement within the child sexual abuse
41 program, which should inform parents or guardians
42 about child sexual abuse topics, including



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discussion of child sexual abuse myths,
characteristics of offenders, grooming behaviors,
and how to discuss this topic with children;

- (5) Title IX and any other federal and state laws and policies concerning public school systems' handling of sexual violence issues, to the extent that they relate to sexual abuse prevention education;
- (6) Resources needed to implement a system wide program for child sexual abuse prevention education; and
- (7) Updates to law or policy that would assist in the implementation of a statewide program for child sexual abuse prevention education; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to submit a report of its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2017, and a follow-up report, including any additional proposed legislation, no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2018; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be dissolved on June 30, 2018; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chair of the Board of Education, Superintendent of Education, Director of Health, Director of Human Services, Attorney General, Executive Director of the Hawaii Youth Services Network, Executive Director of the Sex Abuse Treatment Center, Senate President, and Speaker of the House of Representatives.

OFFERED BY:

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9/10/16

