
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE ATTORNEY GENERAL TO CONDUCT A REVIEW OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION'S SEXUAL HARASSMENT POLICIES AND
TRAINING.

1 WHEREAS, recent headlines have brought increased attention
2 to the issue of sexual harassment in schools; and

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4 WHEREAS, the relationship between a student and a trusted
5 adult such as a teacher, coach, or other school employee is an
6 inherently uneven one, where the student is often susceptible to
7 undue influence and pressure; and

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9 WHEREAS, it is necessary to ensure that all students in the
10 State are protected from sexual harassment of any kind; and

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12 WHEREAS, according to the Hawaii Civil Rights Commission,
13 "Prevention is the best tool for the elimination of sexual
14 harassment. Employers should affirmatively raise the subject,
15 express strong disapproval, develop appropriate sanctions,
16 inform employees of their right to raise and how to raise the
17 issue of sexual harassment, and take any other steps necessary
18 to prevent sexual harassment from occurring"; and

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20 WHEREAS, the Department of Education's Code of Conduct
21 expressly prohibits employees, contractors, and volunteers from
22 "committing any abusive act or sexual exploitation with, to, or
23 in the presence of a student," regardless of whether the student
24 is or has been under the care or supervision of that employee,
25 contractor, or volunteer; and

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27 WHEREAS, the Department of Education's Code of Conduct
28 further prohibits any sexual act, any solicitation of a sexual
29 act, any act of sexual harassment, or any intentional
30 solicitation, encouragement, or consummation of a romantic or



1 physical relationship with a student, or any sexual contact with
2 a student; and

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4 WHEREAS, the Legislature believes that the Department of
5 Education's existing policies should be reviewed by an
6 independent entity to ensure that the policies are sufficient to
7 ensure the safety and protection of all students under the care
8 of the public schools; now, therefore,

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10 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
11 Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
12 of 2018, the Senate concurring, that the Department of the
13 Attorney General is requested to:

- 14
15 (1) Review the Department of Education's policies on
16 sexual harassment, including its policies on training
17 for employees, contractors, and volunteers;
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19 (2) Include in the review an assessment of whether the
20 Department of Education's current policies and
21 training are sufficient;
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23 (3) Determine the correlation, if any, between additional
24 training and instances of reported sexual harassment;
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26 (4) Review relevant sexual harassment policies and
27 training procedures used in the State's private
28 schools to determine what practices used at private
29 schools may be integrated into public schools;
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31 (5) Recommend potential improvements to the Department of
32 Education's policies and training; and
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34 (6) Report its findings and recommendations, including any
35 proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than
36 twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular
37 Session of 2019; and
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39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education,
40 Hawaii Association of Independent Schools, their staff, and
41 other relevant persons, agencies, and entities are requested to
42 cooperate and assist the Department of the Attorney General as



needed, and to provide any information requested by the
Department of the Attorney General; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Attorney General,
Chairperson of the Board of Education, Superintendent of
Education, and Executive Director of the Hawaii Association of
Independent Schools.

OFFERED BY:

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