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SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING FEDERAL FUNDING TO PROVIDE SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS IN EVERY MIDDLE OR INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL IN THE STATE THAT REQUESTS SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS.

WHEREAS, there have been a number of recent school shootings reported in the news across the country, including Parkland, Florida; and Benton, Kentucky; and

WHEREAS, in Parkland, Florida, a gunman killed seventeen unsuspecting students and adults at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, and in Benton, Kentucky, a student shot sixteen students, killing two other students, at Marshall County High School; and

WHEREAS, in light of the recent increase in school violence, it is imperative that federal funding go toward protecting the students of Hawaii; and

WHEREAS, a valuable resource to ensuring safer schools where students can thrive are school resource officers; and

WHEREAS, a school resource officer is a career law enforcement officer with sworn authority responsible for safety and crime prevention in schools; and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Justice Office of Community Oriented Policing Services offers grants to cities and counties for creating law enforcement positions, including school resource officer positions; and

WHEREAS, in 2016, the United States Departments of Education and Justice jointly released the Safe, School-based Enforcement through Collaboration, Understanding, and Respect Rubrics to help education and law enforcement agencies that use school resource officers to review and revise policies to improve school safety and better outcomes for students; and

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WHEREAS, school resource officers also have the opportunity to build trust and gain respect from students by providing positive police interaction and outreach to students; now, therefore,

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BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2018, the House of Representatives concurring, that federal funding is requested to provide school resource officers in every middle or intermediate school and high school in the State that requests school resource officers; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to members of Hawaii's congressional delegation.