
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

ENCOURAGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND OTHER AGENCY AND
COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDERS TO CONTINUE MEETING AS A WORKING
GROUP FOR SEXUAL VIOLENCE PREVENTION EDUCATION IN PUBLIC
SCHOOLS.

1 WHEREAS, sexual violence remains a serious and ongoing
2 threat to the safety and health of children and young people in
3 the State; and

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5 WHEREAS, more than half of sexual violence survivors who
6 receive services at Hawaii's sexual assault centers reported
7 that they experienced their abuse before the age of eighteen
8 years; and

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10 WHEREAS, the United States Centers for Disease Control and
11 Prevention's Hawaii Youth Risk Behavior Survey for 2013, 2015,
12 and 2017 indicated that children and young people in Hawaii
13 experience sexual violence at rates equivalent to or higher than
14 their mainland counterparts, and in some Hawaii counties these
15 rates are substantially higher than elsewhere in the United
16 States; and

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18 WHEREAS, the Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women
19 and Arizona State University Office on Sex Trafficking
20 Intervention's 2019 report, "Sex Trafficking in Hawaii: The
21 Stories of Survivors", recommended that Hawaii adopt public
22 school sexual violence prevention education as a preventative
23 measure to protect students from being trafficked; and

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25 WHEREAS, the Department of Education and Board of Education
26 are committed to the tenets of Title IX and have significantly
27 invested efforts in developing more robust systems to
28 investigate and respond to allegations of sexual assault,



1 bullying, harassment, and other forms of sexual violence in
2 public schools; and

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4 WHEREAS, the Department of Education's Hawaii Content and
5 Performance Standards III includes a content area entitled
6 "Promoting Safety and Preventing Violence and Unintentional
7 Injury" that addresses violence prevention as a priority risk
8 topic; and

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10 WHEREAS, implementation of a program for sexual violence
11 prevention education in public schools is important to protect
12 children and young people in the State and position the
13 Department of Education's Title IX and anti-bullying efforts up
14 for success; and

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16 WHEREAS, prevention-oriented child sexual abuse programs
17 for public school students, school personnel, and parents and
18 guardians, known as "Erin's Law" after an Illinois survivor of
19 child sexual abuse, have been implemented at the state- and
20 district-level in thirty-five other states and the Territory of
21 Guam and are under consideration by the remaining fifteen
22 states; and

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24 WHEREAS, in October 2018, the Department of Education
25 established a working group to collaborate with other
26 stakeholders to review Hawaii public schools' current
27 prevention-oriented child sexual abuse programs and resources
28 and initiate recommendations to enhance integrated,
29 comprehensive and sustained support to ensure the well-being of
30 our youth; now, therefore,

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32 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirtieth Legislature
33 of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2019, the House of
34 Representatives concurring, that the Department of Education and
35 other agency and community stakeholders, including
36 representatives from the LGBTQ community, are encouraged to
37 continue meeting as a working group for sexual violence
38 prevention education in public schools; and

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40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested
41 to submit a report on updates of its progress and any policy and
42 resource recommendations to the Legislature and Board of



1 Education at least twenty days prior to the convening of the
2 Regular Sessions of 2020 and 2021; and

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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
5 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chair of the Board
6 of Education and Superintendent of Education.

