

MAR 06 2020

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH,
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES, AND DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC
SAFETY TO ADOPT POLICIES AND PROGRAMS THAT SUPPORT TRAUMA-
RESPONSIVE PRACTICES AND THAT TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE
PRINCIPLES OF EARLY CHILDHOOD BRAIN DEVELOPMENT AND ADVERSE
CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES.

1 WHEREAS, adverse childhood experiences are traumatic
2 experiences that may have a profound effect on a child's
3 developing brain and body and result in poor health during the
4 person's adulthood; and
5

6 WHEREAS, adverse childhood experiences include physical,
7 emotional, and sexual abuse; physical and emotional neglect; and
8 household dysfunction, including domestic violence, separation
9 or divorce, substance abuse, untreated mental illness, or
10 incarceration of a household member; and
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12 WHEREAS, strong, frequent, or prolonged stress in childhood
13 caused by adverse childhood experiences can become toxic stress,
14 affecting the development of a child's fundamental brain
15 architecture and stress response systems; and
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17 WHEREAS, adverse childhood experience studies have found a
18 strong correlation between the number of adverse childhood
19 experiences and a person's risk for disease and negative health
20 behaviors, including suicide attempts, cancer, ischemic heart
21 disease, diabetes, smoking, substance abuse, depression,
22 obesity, unplanned pregnancy, workplace absenteeism, lower
23 educational achievement, and lower wages; and
24

25 WHEREAS, the life expectancy of a person with six or more
26 adverse childhood experiences is twenty years shorter than the
27 life expectancy of a person with no adverse childhood
28 experiences; and
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1 WHEREAS, the emerging science and research on toxic stress
2 and adverse childhood experiences have uncovered evidence of a
3 growing public health crisis for the State, with implications
4 for the State's educational, juvenile justice, criminal justice,
5 public health, public safety, labor, and commerce systems; and
6

7 WHEREAS, it is more effective and less costly to positively
8 influence the architecture of a young child's developing brain
9 than to attempt to correct poor learning, health, and behaviors
10 later in life; and
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12 WHEREAS, the thirty-two-year Kauai resiliency study
13 demonstrates that having protective factors within the
14 individual, family, and community can help children overcome the
15 odds and become successful in their lives; and
16

17 WHEREAS, the federal Family First Prevention Act
18 fundamentally changes the way that Title IV-E: Federal Payments
19 for Foster Care and Adoption Assistance funds can be spent and
20 now includes preventative services; and
21

22 WHEREAS, increasing trauma-informed care and services,
23 investing in prevention and resiliency programs, and developing
24 nurturing, resilient, and trauma-responsive communities can
25 reduce the impact of traumatic events and adverse childhood
26 experiences; now, therefore,
27

28 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirtieth Legislature
29 of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2020, the House of
30 Representatives concurring, that the Department of Education,
31 Department of Health, Department of Human Services, and
32 Department of Public Safety are requested to adopt policies and
33 programs that support trauma-responsive practices and take into
34 account the principles of early childhood brain development and
35 adverse childhood experiences to give all children in Hawaii the
36 opportunity to thrive; and
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38



S.C.R. NO. 128

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
2 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the
3 Board of Education, Superintendent of Education, Director of
4 Health, Director of Human Services, and Director of Public
5 Safety.
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OFFERED BY:

