

MAR - 6 2020

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

ENCOURAGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, COMPLEX AREAS, AND
CHARTER SCHOOLS TO IMPLEMENT SCHOOL-WIDE RESTORATIVE
JUSTICE PRACTICES IN THE STATE'S PUBLIC AND CHARTER
SCHOOLS.

1 WHEREAS, studies show that suspension and expulsion, which
2 are traditional methods of addressing disciplinary issues in
3 schools, do not make schools safer and result in lower
4 graduation rates and increased rates of involvement in the
5 juvenile justice system, thus contributing to the school to
6 prison pipeline; and
7

8 WHEREAS, restorative justice is a values-based approach to
9 community building, problem solving, and conflict resolution
10 that builds and restores relationships, creates opportunities
11 for dialogue, repairs harm, transforms conflict, and creates
12 equitable learning environments in schools; and
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14 WHEREAS, restorative justice enhances school communities by
15 incorporating values of respect, dignity, mutual concern,
16 collaboration, and accountability into the school culture; and
17

18 WHEREAS, restorative justice encourages students to engage
19 in collaborative problem solving, which empowers students and
20 gives them tools to effectively communicate beyond the school
21 setting; and
22

23 WHEREAS, restorative justice, in a school setting, shifts
24 the emphasis from managing behavior to focusing on building,
25 nurturing, and repairing relationships, while retaining the
26 ability to hold students accountable; and
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28 WHEREAS, restorative justice focuses on the impact of
29 students' behavior on other members of the school community,



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1 rather than only on rule breaking, and allows those impacted to
 2 find ways to repair the harm and restore damaged relationships,
 3 rather than imposing punishment; and
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5 WHEREAS, studies have shown that restorative justice
 6 practices can lead to reductions in problem behavior,
 7 improvements in school climate, and increases in student
 8 achievement, attendance, and graduation rates; and
 9

10 WHEREAS, there is a continuum of proactive to responsive
 11 restorative practices, ranging from community-building circles
 12 to restorative conferencing, which are accessible to educators
 13 who can then use those funds to successfully implement school-
 14 wide restorative justice practices; now, therefore,
 15

16 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirtieth Legislature
 17 of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2020, the House of
 18 Representatives concurring, that the Department of Education,
 19 complex areas, and charter schools are encouraged to implement
 20 school-wide restorative justice initiative practices in Hawaii's
 21 public and charter schools; and
 22

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 24 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the
 25 Board of Education, Superintendent of Education, and Chairperson
 26 of the State Charter School Commission.
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 29

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