
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES, IN COLLABORATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, TO CONVENE A TASK FORCE TO ESTABLISH SAFE AND EFFECTIVE DISCIPLINE FOR ALL CHILDREN IN HAWAII.

1 WHEREAS, studies have shown that corporal punishment is not
2 an effective form of discipline and instead is linked to an
3 increased risk of negative behavioral, cognitive, psychosocial,
4 and emotional outcomes for children; and

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6 WHEREAS, more specifically, there is overwhelming
7 scientific evidence that using physical discipline to punish
8 children: is ineffective in teaching responsible behavior;
9 impacts normal brain development; delays language development;
10 increases the likelihood of abuse and injury in children;
11 increases aggression in pre-school and school-aged children;
12 increases the likelihood that children will become more defiant
13 and aggressive; teaches children that aggression is an
14 acceptable method of problem solving; increases mental health
15 disorders in children; and has a negative effect on the parent-
16 child relationship; and

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18 WHEREAS, the phrase "corporal punishment," as used by the
19 American Academy of Pediatrics, means non-injurious, open-handed
20 hitting with the intention of modifying child behavior; and

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22 WHEREAS, the American Academy of Pediatrics, an
23 organization of more than sixty-seven thousand pediatricians,
24 issued a policy statement in December 2018 recommending against
25 the use of any form of corporal punishment on children and
26 advocating for the dissemination of safe and effective
27 discipline practices for adults responsible for child care; and

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29 WHEREAS, virtually all professional organizations that are
30 involved with the health, well-being, and safety of children



1 have come to similar conclusions with respect to banning
 2 corporal punishment and promoting alternative measures of
 3 discipline, including the American Academy of Child and
 4 Adolescent Psychiatry, American Psychological Association,
 5 American Public Health Association, American Academy of Family
 6 Physicians, American Bar Association, American Civil Liberties
 7 Union, American Humane Association, and National Association of
 8 Pediatric Nurse Practitioners; and
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10 WHEREAS, although the United States Supreme Court has held
 11 since 1977 that corporal punishment of prisoners is prohibited
 12 by the United States Constitution, the Court has not opined on
 13 whether corporal punishment of children is also prohibited; and
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15 WHEREAS, the Injury Prevention Branch of the United States
 16 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has urged legislative
 17 action to stop the use of corporal punishment on children; and
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19 WHEREAS, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the
 20 Child called on all member states as early as 1989 to ban
 21 corporal punishment of children; and
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23 WHEREAS, fifty-eight countries have banned corporal
 24 punishment in some form and at least thirty of those countries
 25 fully ban physical punishment of children; and
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27 WHEREAS, in 1973, Hawaii led the nation by becoming the
 28 third state to ban corporal punishment in schools; now,
 29 therefore,
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31 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirtieth Legislature
 32 of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2020, the House of
 33 Representatives concurring, that the State of Hawaii supports
 34 the right of parents to use safe and effective methods of
 35 discipline and teaching; and
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37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Human
 38 Services, in collaboration with the Department of Health, is
 39 requested to convene a Task Force on Corporal Punishment to do
 40 the following:
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- 1 (1) Evaluate scientific research on the use of corporal
2 punishment on children and the effects thereof;
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- 4 (2) Recommend strategies to promote, and disseminate
5 information on, safe and effective methods of
6 discipline; and
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- 8 (3) Make a recommendation to the Legislature on whether
9 corporal punishment of children by their parents or
10 other caregivers should be banned or otherwise limited
11 in Hawaii; and
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13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Director of Human Services
14 and the Director of Health are requested to serve as co-chairs
15 of the Task Force and to invite one representative from each of
16 the following entities to serve as members of the Task Force:
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- 18 (1) The Department of the Attorney General;
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- 20 (2) The School Health Section of the Department of
21 Education;
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- 23 (3) The Child Welfare Services Branch of the Department of
24 Human Services;
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- 26 (4) The Maternal and Child Health Branch of the Department
27 of Health;
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- 29 (5) The University of Hawaii School of Medicine;
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- 31 (6) The University of Hawaii School of Nursing;
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- 33 (7) The University of Hawaii School of Social Work;
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- 35 (8) The Judiciary's Zero to Three Court program;
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- 37 (9) The United States Department of Justice;
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- 39 (10) The Kapiolani Medical Center for Women and Children;
40 and
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- 42 (11) Retired judges from the State Judiciary; and



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2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Director of Human Services
3 is requested to consider inviting representatives from the
4 following entities to serve as additional non-voting
5 participants of the Task Force:

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- 7 (1) The Hawaii chapter of the American Academy of
- 8 Pediatrics;
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- 10 (2) The Hawaii chapter of the American Academy of Child
- 11 and Adolescent Psychiatry;
- 12
- 13 (3) The Hawaii chapter of the American Psychological
- 14 Association;
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- 16 (4) The Hawaii chapter of the American Bar Association;
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- 18 (5) The Hawaii chapter of the National Association of
- 19 Social Workers;
- 20
- 21 (6) The Hawaii chapter of the National Association of
- 22 Pediatric Nurse Practitioners;
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- 24 (7) A religious organization; and
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- 26 (8) A parent advocacy organization; and

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28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Task Force is requested to
29 submit a report to the Legislature of its findings and
30 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, no later
31 than forty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of
32 2021; and

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34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the Task Force
35 shall serve without compensation; and

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37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
38 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Attorney General of
39 the United States, Director of Human Services, Director of
40 Health, Superintendent of Education, Attorney General,
41 Administrative Director of the Courts, President of the



1 University of Hawaii, and the Chief Executive Officer of the
2 Kapiolani Medical Center for Women and Children.
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