

JAN 21 2020

SENATE RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO IMPLEMENT BROWN-BAG LUNCH
SESSIONS AT MIDDLE SCHOOLS AND HIGH SCHOOLS.

1 WHEREAS, bullying in schools is a serious problem and can
2 lead to high suicide rates; and

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4 WHEREAS, the Department of Health has found Hawai'i to have
5 the highest teen suicide rate in the nation; and

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7 WHEREAS, the suicide rates of youth who are or feel
8 marginalized on the basis of race, sexuality, religion,
9 nationality, or gender identification can be even higher than
10 the teen suicide rate as a whole; and

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12 WHEREAS, students need to feel safe in order for quality
13 learning to take place; and

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15 WHEREAS, the establishment of schools as safe places goes
16 beyond the school simply as a place where students, teachers,
17 and staff are free from physical or verbal violence; and

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19 WHEREAS, one of the most valuable conditions created by
20 schools as a place of safety is their fundamental utility in
21 fostering a climate conducive to valuable, ongoing conversations
22 among students, teachers, and staff by creating a sense of
23 inclusion, belonging, and community; and

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25 WHEREAS, these ongoing conversations are a fundamental
26 prerequisite for the creation of opportunities for all students
27 to engage in complex cognitive, intrapersonal, and interpersonal
28 development; and

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30 WHEREAS, studies have shown that with guided recess time
31 and with the implementation of meaningful programs during
32 recess, reports of bullying drops and learning increases; and

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34 WHEREAS, brown-bag lunch meetings provide an informal
35 training and learning environment to discuss a multitude of



1 topics guided by counselors, teachers, volunteers, or guest
2 speakers; and
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4 WHEREAS, the attendees at the twenty-sixth annual Children
5 and Youth Summit in 2019 identified the creation of these lunch
6 meetings as a priority; now, therefore,
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8 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirtieth Legislature
9 of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2020, that the
10 Department of Education implement brown-bag lunch sessions in
11 both middle schools and high schools on at least a weekly basis
12 to provide an informal training and learning environment to
13 discuss a multitude of topics guided by counselors, teachers,
14 volunteers, or guest speakers; and
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16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that student counselors, faculty,
17 and students are engaged in the implementation of the program
18 and in the content choices of the program; and
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20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education
21 reach out to and collaborate with community-based organizations,
22 such as those funded by Americorps and Vista, to support the
23 implementation of this program; and
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25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that student attendance of the
26 program shall be voluntary; and
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28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
29 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Chair of the Board of
30 Education, and Superintendent of Education.
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OFFERED BY:

Karl Rhoads

Simon Mercado K.

[Signature]

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