

MAR 06 2020

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE COLLECTION OF SEXUAL ORIENTATION AND GENDER
IDENTITY INFORMATION BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH VIA THE
BEHAVIORAL RISK FACTOR SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM, AND BY THE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION VIA THE YOUTH RISK BEHAVIOR
SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM.

1 WHEREAS, major mental and physical health care professional
2 associations recognize that being lesbian, gay, bisexual,
3 transgender, queer, or questioning is part of the natural
4 variation that occurs in sexual orientation and gender identity;
5 and
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7 WHEREAS, the Department of Health published reports in 2018
8 and 2019 highlighting issues facing lesbian, gay, bisexual,
9 transgender, queer, or questioning children and youth, including
10 higher rates of isolation, depression, suicidal ideations or
11 attempts, substance use and misuse, homelessness, and sexual and
12 intimate partner violence in Hawaii; and
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14 WHEREAS, preliminary data collection efforts indicate a
15 significant population of indigenous lesbian, gay, bisexual,
16 transgender, queer, or questioning persons; and
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18 WHEREAS, the government's failure to accurately collect and
19 consider demographic data on sexual orientation and gender
20 identity creates an unnecessary barrier to addressing the needs
21 of gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, or questioning youth; and
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23 WHEREAS, the State of Hawaii relies on the Behavioral Risk
24 Factor Surveillance System as a critical resource for monitoring
25 the health of Hawaii's adult population; and
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27 WHEREAS, the Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System is a
28 joint effort by the Department of Health and Department of
29 Education to monitor the health of Hawaii's youth population;
30 now, therefore,



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2 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirtieth Legislature
3 of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2020, that the
4 Department of Health is requested to administer the Behavioral
5 Risk Factor Surveillance System to collect information on the
6 sexual orientation and gender identity of respondents; and
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8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is
9 requested to include the questions related to sexual orientation
10 and gender identity of respondents in the Behavioral Risk Factor
11 Surveillance System questionnaire, and, if necessary, develop
12 and include its own questions related to the sexual orientation
13 and gender identity; and
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15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is
16 requested to give preference to and include any modules or
17 questions approved by the United States Centers for Disease
18 Control and Prevention in its administration of the Behavioral
19 Risk Factor Surveillance System; and
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21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is
22 requested to publish a detailed annual report on the results of
23 the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System; and
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25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is
26 requested to also annually publish a comprehensive report on the
27 health of Hawaii's lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer,
28 or questioning community, including a comparison of the
29 prevalence of health-related risk behaviors, chronic health
30 conditions, and use of preventive services among the lesbian,
31 gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, or questioning population
32 with the general population, and, where possible, sub-
33 populations of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer,
34 or questioning population; and
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36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that every three years, the
37 Department of Health is requested to include in its
38 comprehensive report the data collected from the Behavioral Risk
39 Factor Surveillance System, subject to the various privacy laws;
40 and
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is
2 requested to post all reports requested by this measure on its
3 website; and
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5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is
6 requested to administer the Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance
7 System to collect information on the sexual orientation and
8 gender identity of students in the public schools and charter
9 schools and transmit that information to the Department of
10 Health; and
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12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is
13 requested not to pass any costs associated with administering
14 the Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System to any public school
15 or charter school; and
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17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
18 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Director of Health,
19 Chairperson of the Board of Education, and Superintendent of
20 Education.
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OFFERED BY: _____

Kal Rhodes

