

MAR 06 2020

---

---

# SENATE 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

13  
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

27  
28           WHEREAS, restorative justice focuses on the impact of  
29 students' behavior on other members of the school community,  
30 rather than only on rule breaking, and allows those impacted to



# S.R. NO. 87

1 find ways to repair the harm and restore damaged relationships,  
2 rather than imposing punishment; and  
3

4 WHEREAS, studies have shown that restorative justice  
5 practices can lead to reductions in problem behavior,  
6 improvements in school climate, and increases in student  
7 achievement, attendance, and graduation rates; and  
8

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

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

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
22 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of  
23 Education, Superintendent of Education, and Chairperson of the  
24 State Charter School Commission.  
25  
26  
27

OFFERED BY:

Karl Rhoads  
Dianne Hurd



Ronald H. Bell  
~~AC. Hutchins~~  
John E. Gosh  
Randy E. Bell  
Dianne K. Hurd  
856  
Kurt F. Hall

