

COUNTY COUNCIL

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DEPT. COMM. NO. 230

February 25, 2021

The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President, Hawai'i State Senate
Via E-mail only to senkouchi@capitol.hawaii.gov

Dear Senate President Kouchi:

Enclosed for your information and files is a certified copy of Resolution No. 2021-11, Draft 1, "RESOLUTION URGING IN-PERSON EDUCATION TO RESUME FOR GRADES K-12, INTERSCHOLASTIC SPORTS COMPETITIONS, ORGANIZED YOUTH SPORTS, AND ADULT RECREATIONAL SPORTS FOR THE STATE OF HAWAII," which was approved by the Kaua'i County Council on February 24, 2021.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or Council Services Staff at (808) 241-4188.

Sincerely,

JADE K. FOUNTAIN-TANIGAWA
County Clerk, County of Kaua'i

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Enclosure

COUNTY COUNCIL

COUNTY OF KAUAI

Resolution No. 2021-11, Draft 1

**RESOLUTION URGING IN-PERSON EDUCATION TO RESUME FOR
GRADES K-12, INTERSCHOLASTIC SPORTS COMPETITIONS,
ORGANIZED YOUTH SPORTS, AND ADULT RECREATIONAL SPORTS
FOR THE STATE OF HAWAII**

WHEREAS, the Hawai'i Department of Education schools closed in-person education and suspended all interscholastic sports competitions in March 2020 to minimize the potential of SARS-CoV-2 community spread and due to the unknown potential impacts on children from SARS-CoV-2 in the early days of the pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the American Academy of Pediatrics reports that, "It appears that children younger than ten years are less likely to become infected and less likely to spread infection to others, although further studies are needed."; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control reports that "Based on the data available, in-person education in schools has not been associated with substantial community transmission"; and

WHEREAS, a recent article in the Journal of the American Medical Association written by three Centers for Disease Control researchers states that "The preponderance of available evidence from the fall school semester has been reassuring" and that "There has been little evidence that schools have contributed meaningfully to increased community transmission"; and

WHEREAS, the American Academy of Pediatrics cites growing evidence of the negative impacts on children due to school closures in 2020, including widening educational disparities for minority groups and children in poverty along with increased emotional and behavioral distress; and

WHEREAS, the American Academy of Pediatrics states that in-person education in schools plays a fundamental role in academic instruction, child and adolescent development, social and emotional skills, safety, reliable nutrition, physical/occupational/speech therapy, mental health services, health services, physical activity, racial and social equity, as well as the critical importance for families to have safe child care options; and

WHEREAS, the American Academy of Pediatrics' website states that "re-engaging in sports activity with friends has both physical and psychological health benefits for children and adolescents," which "allows youth to improve their cardiovascular health, strength, body composition, and overall fitness"; and

WHEREAS, the American Academy of Pediatrics' Guidance on Safe Schools strongly advocates that, "All policy considerations for school COVID-19 plans should start with a goal of having students physically present in school."; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control advocates that, "K-12 schools should be the last settings to close after all other mitigation measures in the community have been employed, and the first to reopen when they can do so safely. Schools should be prioritized for reopening and remaining open for in-person instruction over nonessential businesses and activities."; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control states that, "Vaccinating teachers and school staff can be considered one layer of mitigation and protection for staff and students," and Kaua'i is well into phase 1b of the vaccination distribution, which includes teachers and school staff; and

WHEREAS, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Centers for Disease Control, and the Hawai'i State Department of Health all cite the importance of basing re-opening strategies on the degree to which SARS-CoV-2 is spreading in a community; and

WHEREAS, the County of Kaua'i has among the lowest rates of SARS-CoV-2 transmission in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the Hawai'i State Department of Health's school guidance metric shows Kaua'i as the only island in Hawai'i that can safely move to full-time in-person education for both elementary and secondary schools; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Controls New Indicators and Thresholds for Community Transmission of SARS-CoV-2 show that Kaua'i's case count is in the lowest risk category, which puts us in the threshold labeled "K-12 schools open for full in-person instruction" along with sports and extracurricular activities; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control urges that safe in-person education requires universal and correct use of masks, physical distancing, handwashing, contact tracing, cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, and ensuring adequate ventilation; and

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE COUNTY OF KAUAI, STATE OF HAWAII, that it gratefully supports school teachers and recognizes their perseverance and commitment to mitigating adversity through the constant challenges brought on by SARS-CoV-2.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that it also supports the work that teachers do in educating our children, promoting racial and social equity, and helping to ensure a strong and vibrant economy by providing safe child care options and enabling parents to attend work.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that it urges Hawai'i Department of Education superintendents, principals, and teachers to follow the Centers for Disease Control, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the Hawai'i Department of Health's guidance to resume full-time in-person education for K-12 as long as Kauai's SARS-CoV-2 case count remains within the Centers for Disease Control and the Hawai'i Department of Health's metrics for safe openings.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that schools should adhere to all of the mitigation strategies recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and the American Academy of Pediatrics, such as universal masking, adequate distancing, cohorting, and proper ventilation, to reduce the potential of SARS-CoV-2 transmission.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that as long as Kauai remains in the Centers for Disease Control low transmission blue category for community spread, that outdoor sports and extracurricular activities should resume.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that it urges the Governor to create a task force to establish protocols to safely resume organized youth sports and adult recreational sports in Hawai'i.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this Resolution shall be transmitted to United States Senator Brian E. Schatz, United States Senator Mazie Hirono, United States Representative Ed Case, United States Representative Kaiali'i Kahele, Governor David Y. Ige, Lieutenant Governor Josh Green, Senate President Ronald D. Kouchi, Representative Daynette "Dee" Morikawa, Representative Nadine K. Nakamura, Representative James Kunane Tokioka, and Mayor Derek S.K. Kawakami.

Introduced by: /s/ MASON K. CHOCK

/s/ LUKE A. EVSLIN

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	Aye	Nay	Excused	Refused
Carvalho	X			
Chock	X			
Cowden	X			
DeCosta	X			
Evslin	X			
Kaneshiro	X			
Kuali'i			X	
Total	6	0	1	0

Certificate Of Adoption

We hereby certify that Resolution No. 2021-11, Draft 1 was adopted by the Council of the County of Kaua'i, State of Hawai'i, Lihue, Kaua'i, Hawai'i, on February 24, 2021.


County Clerk


Chairman & Presiding Officer

Dated February 24, 2021