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# HOUSE CONCURRENT 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 advancing the school to prison  
6 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 encourages students to engage  
15 in collaborative problem solving, which empowers students and  
16 gives them tools to effectively communicate beyond the school  
17 setting; and

18  
19           WHEREAS, restorative justice, in a school setting, shifts  
20 the emphasis from managing behavior to focusing on building,  
21 nurturing, and repairing relationships, while retaining the  
22 ability to hold students accountable; and

23  
24           WHEREAS, restorative justice focuses on the impact of  
25 students' behavior on other members of the school community,  
26 rather than only on rule breaking, and allows those impacted to  
27 find ways to repair the harm and restore damaged relationships,  
28 rather than imposing punishment; and



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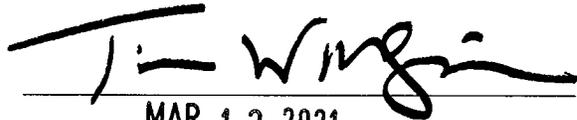
1 WHEREAS, studies have shown that restorative justice  
2 practices can lead to reductions in problem behavior,  
3 improvements in school climate, and increases in student  
4 achievement, attendance, and graduation rates; and  
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6 WHEREAS, there is a continuum of proactive to responsive  
7 restorative practices, ranging from community-building circles  
8 to restorative conferencing, which are accessible to educators  
9 who can then use those funds to successfully implement school-  
10 wide restorative justice practices; now, therefore,  
11

12 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
13 Thirty-first Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
14 of 2021, the Senate concurring, that the Department of  
15 Education, complex areas, and charter schools are encouraged to  
16 implement school-wide restorative justice initiative practices  
17 in Hawaii's public and charter schools; and  
18

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

OFFERED BY:

  
MAR 12 2021

