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## HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO CONVENE A WORKING GROUP TO CREATE A MODEL STATEWIDE SCHOOL POLICY ON STUDENT SUICIDE PREVENTION, INTERVENTION, AND POSTVENTION IN GRADES K-12.

1 WHEREAS, the Department of Health, in its *Hawaii Sexual and*  
2 *Gender Minority Health Report* (2017) and *Hawaii Sexual and*  
3 *Gender Minority Report 2018: A Focus on Transgender Youth*,  
4 found that:

5  
6 (1) Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning  
7 youth are more likely than heterosexual youth to  
8 experience suicidal ideation as a result of minority  
9 stress;

10  
11 (2) Lesbian, gay, bisexual, and questioning youth are  
12 significantly more likely to have engaged in self-  
13 injury, considered suicide, made a suicide plan, and  
14 attempted suicide than heterosexual youth;

15  
16 (3) The prevalence of lesbian, gay, and bisexual youth who  
17 report that they have considered and attempted suicide  
18 is also significantly higher than questioning youth;

19  
20 (4) Transgender youth are around three times more likely  
21 to consider suicide and make a suicide plan than  
22 cisgender youth; and

23  
24 (5) Half of transgender youth reported attempting suicide  
25 one or more times, which is nearly seven times higher  
26 than cisgender youth; and

27  
28 WHEREAS, school personnel who interact with students on a  
29 daily basis are essential gatekeepers for recognizing warning  
30 signs of suicide and making the appropriate referrals for help;  
31 and



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1           WHEREAS, E Ola Hou Prevent Suicide Maui County Task Force  
2 has been working with the Department of Education to provide  
3 mandated suicide prevention training for all school employees;  
4 now, therefore  
5

6           BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
7 Thirty-first Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
8 of 2021, that the Department of Education is requested to  
9 convene a working group to create a model statewide school  
10 policy on student suicide prevention, intervention, and  
11 postvention in grades K-12 by September 1, 2021; and  
12

13           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the policy is requested to be  
14 developed in consultation with school and community  
15 stakeholders, school-employed mental health professionals and  
16 suicide prevention experts and, at a minimum, address the  
17 following:  
18

- 19           (1) Mental health and substance use;
- 20
- 21           (2) Childhood abuse, neglect, or trauma;
- 22
- 23           (3) Prolonged stress, such as bullying or harassment and  
24 stressful life events, including rejection, breakups,  
25 or loss;
- 26
- 27           (4) Exposure to another person's suicide or  
28 sensationalized depictions of suicide;
- 29
- 30           (5) Previous suicide attempts or history of suicide within  
31 the family;
- 32
- 33           (6) How to use expertise of school employees who have been  
34 trained in recognizing suicide risk and referral  
35 procedures;
- 36
- 37           (7) How school employees should respond to a crisis  
38 situation where a student is in imminent danger to the  
39 student's self;



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1 (8) Policies and protocols for communication with parents,  
 2 including those that specify how to proceed if  
 3 parental notification is not in the best interest of  
 4 the student;

5  
 6 (9) Counseling services available with the school for  
 7 students and their families related to suicide  
 8 prevention; and  
 9

10 (10) Development of a plan to assist survivors of attempted  
 11 suicide and assist students and school employees; and  
 12

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the policy is requested to  
 14 address the needs of high-risk groups, including but not limited  
 15 to the following:  
 16

17 (1) Youth with disabilities or with chronic health  
 18 conditions, including mental health and substance use  
 19 conditions;  
 20

21 (2) Youth experiencing homelessness or in out-of-home  
 22 settings, such as foster care; and  
 23

24 (3) Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender,  
 25 queer/questioning, intersex, asexual, and pansexual  
 26 (LGBTQ+) youth; and  
 27

28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is  
 29 requested to post this model policy by January 1, 2022, on the  
 30 Department's website, along with relevant resources and  
 31 information to support schools in developing and implementing  
 32 the policy; and  
 33

34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested  
 35 to review the impact of the suicide prevention policy every  
 36 fifth year and, if necessary, update the policy; and



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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
2 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of  
3 Education, Superintendent of Education, and Executive Director  
4 of the State Public Charter School Commission.  
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6  
7

OFFERED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Adrian", is written over a horizontal line.

FEB 25 2021

