
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR TO CONVENE A TASK FORCE TO ASSESS WHETHER STATE AGENCIES' ANTI-BULLYING POLICIES AND RECORDS OF INCIDENCES OF BULLYING ARE PROPERLY UPDATED AND EFFECTIVELY UTILIZED.

1 WHEREAS, all students have the right to fully participate
2 in the educational process free from bullying, including
3 cyberbullying and harassment; and
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5 WHEREAS, a safe and civil environment is necessary for
6 students to learn and meet high academic standards; and
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8 WHEREAS, because of the central role that data collection
9 occupies in virtually every aspect of government decision-making
10 and resource allocation, failure to maintain accurate
11 demographic data brings about very real and dire consequences
12 for youth; and
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14 WHEREAS, there must be an evaluation of the effectiveness
15 of current anti-bullying measures at the district and individual
16 school level; and
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18 WHEREAS, implementing new policies that focus on
19 progressive rather than punitive punishments for students that
20 have committed acts of bullying, cyberbullying, or harassment
21 should be prioritized; and
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23 WHEREAS, the State supports the right for all students,
24 regardless of race, gender identity or expression, religion,
25 disability, ancestry, or sexual orientation, to learn in a safe
26 environment free from bullying, cyberbullying, and harassment;
27 now, therefore,
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29 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
30 Thirty-first Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
31 of 2021, that the Office of the Governor is requested to convene



1 a task force to assess whether state agencies' anti-bullying
2 policies and records of incidences of bullying are properly
3 updated and effectively utilized; and
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5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Office of the Governor is
6 requested to convene the task force with one representative from
7 the following agencies with experience and expertise in lesbian,
8 gay, bisexual, transgender, queer/questioning, intersex,
9 asexual, and pansexual (LGBTQ+) issues:

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11 (1) Department of Education;

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13 (2) Department of Human Services;

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15 (3) Department of Transportation;

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17 (4) Department of Health;

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19 (5) State Public Charter School Commission; and

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21 (6) University of Hawaii; and

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23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to
24 invite other individuals with relevant experience and expertise
25 to be members of the task force, including:

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27 (1) Youth advocates;

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29 (2) Teachers;

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31 (3) Youth;

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33 (4) Direct services providers; and

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35 (5) Parents and legal guardians; and

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37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to
38 develop model policy related to all forms of bullying, including
39 cyberbullying and harassment; and



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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the state agencies with
2 representation on the task force are requested to provide the
3 task force with reports and information recorded on incidences
4 of bullying; and

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6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to
7 provide, when possible, recommendations on changes to curricula
8 that are meant to reduce bullying and promote civil conduct
9 through education on the following enumerations:

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- (1) Race;
- (2) Gender identity or expression;
- (3) Religion;
- (4) Disability;
- (5) Ancestry; and
- (6) Sexual Orientation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to consider that students who have committed acts of bullying, cyberbullying, or harassment be given non-punitive disciplinary actions that are meant to address the root causes of bullying, including but not limited to:

- (1) Meeting with parents;
- (2) Reflective writing;
- (3) Counseling;
- (4) Health counseling or intervention;
- (5) Mental health counseling; and
- (6) Participation in skills building and resolution activities; and



1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Office of the Governor is
2 requested to appoint all members of the task force no later than
3 thirty days after the last day of the Regular Session of 2021;
4 and

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6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the task force
7 shall serve without compensation and shall receive no
8 reimbursement for expenses; and

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10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to
11 convene its initial meeting within sixty days after the
12 appointment of the last member of the task force; and

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14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to
15 submit a report of its findings and recommendations, including
16 any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than
17 twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of
18 2023; and

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20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
21 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Superintendent of
22 Education, Director of Human Services, Director of
23 Transportation, Director of Health, President of the University
24 of Hawaii, Chairperson of the Board of Education, and Executive
25 Director of the State Public Charter School Commission.

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OFFERED BY:



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