

MAR 12 2021

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING COUNTY LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES TO MONITOR PARKS AND
OTHER AREAS NEAR SCHOOLS DURING SCHOOL HOURS TO DETECT
INDIVIDUALS WHO MAY BE STUDENTS, AND TO ENFORCE THE STATE
TRUANCY LAW.

1 WHEREAS, section 302A-1132, Hawaii Revised Statutes,
2 commonly known as the State's truancy law, generally requires
3 that children five to eighteen years of age attend school; and
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5 WHEREAS, truancy is one of the warning signs that a student
6 may be headed for delinquent activity, social isolation, or
7 educational failure due to dropping out of school; and
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9 WHEREAS, the lack of commitment to school is a risk factor
10 for substance abuse, delinquency, teen pregnancy, and dropping
11 out of school; and
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13 WHEREAS, those who do not graduate from high school use
14 more government-funded social services than high school
15 graduates, with the average high school dropout costing the
16 government more than \$200,000 over the course of a lifetime; and
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18 WHEREAS, in response to Senate Concurrent Resolution 74,
19 Senate Draft 1, Regular Session of 2008, the Department of
20 Education convened a Working Group on Truancy Rate Reduction to
21 develop guidelines to reduce the truancy rate in public schools;
22 and
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24 WHEREAS, one of the recommendations made by the Working
25 Group on Truancy Rate Reduction was to collaborate with law
26 enforcement; and
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28 WHEREAS, while section 302A-1136, Hawaii Revised Statutes,
29 vests enforcement of the State's truancy law with the Department



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1 of Education, that section does not also relieve the chiefs of
2 police from enforcement of the same laws; and
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4 WHEREAS, students have been observed loitering in parks
5 near schools and law enforcement agencies have not been actively
6 collaborating with schools to vigorously enforce the State's
7 truancy law; now, therefore,
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9 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first
10 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2021, the
11 House of Representatives concurring, that county law enforcement
12 agencies are urged to monitor parks and other areas near schools
13 during school hours to detect individuals who may be students,
14 and to enforce the state truancy law; and
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16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
17 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Superintendent of
18 Education and chief of police of each county.
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OFFERED BY:

Kurt Fervella

