
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

ENCOURAGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, COMPLEX AREAS, AND
CHARTER SCHOOLS TO IMPLEMENT SCHOOL-WIDE RESTORATIVE
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 expanding the school to prison
6 pipeline; and
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8 WHEREAS, restorative practices are a values-based approach
9 to 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
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14 WHEREAS, restorative practices encourage 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
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19 WHEREAS, restorative practices, in a school setting, shift
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
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24 WHEREAS, restorative practices focus 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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30 WHEREAS, studies have shown that restorative practices can
31 lead to reductions in problem behavior; improvements in school



1 climate; and increases in student achievement, attendance, and
2 graduation rates; and

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4 WHEREAS, there is a continuum of proactive to responsive
5 restorative practices, ranging from community-building circles
6 to restorative conferencing, which are accessible to educators
7 who can then use those funds to successfully implement school-
8 wide restorative practices; now, therefore,

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

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17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
18 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the
19 Board of Education, Superintendent of Education, Chairperson of
20 the Hawaii State Charter School Commission, and Executive
21 Director of the Hawaii State Charter School Commission.

