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SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES, IN COORDINATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, TO COLLECT DATA ON LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER, QUEER OR QUESTIONING, PANSEXUAL, ASEXUAL, GENDER NON-CONFORMING, AND INTERSEX YOUTH WHO ARE UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE COURTS AND THE HAWAII YOUTH CORRECTIONAL FACILITY.

WHEREAS, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer or questioning, pansexual, asexual, and gender non-conforming (LGBTQ+) youth are historically overrepresented in juvenile detention and correctional facilities in the juvenile system; and

WHEREAS, intersex variation is rarely reported leading to missed information about LGBTQ+ and intersex youth; and

WHEREAS, LGBTQ+ youth, particularly LGBTQ+ youth of color, face discrimination and stigma that leads to criminalization and increased interactions with law enforcement and the criminal justice system; and

WHEREAS, for some LGBTQ+ youth, especially LGBTQ+ youth of color and transgender and non-conforming youth, these factors play a large role in increasing their interactions with law enforcement and ultimately their overrepresentation in the juvenile and criminal justice systems; and

WHEREAS, LGBTQ+ youth in Hawaii experience stark physical and mental health disparities, as reported in the Hawaii Department of Health's 2017 and 2018 Sexual and Gender Minorities Health Data reports; and

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WHEREAS, the primary objective of the Kawailoa Youth and Family Wellness Center, housed within the Hawaii Youth Correctional Facility, is to prevent delinquency; and

WHEREAS, the Kawailoa Youth and Family Wellness Center provides services and programs to meet the needs of youth or young adults within the criminal justice system in addition to at risk youth outside the criminal justice system; and

WHEREAS, specific data collected on sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, and intersex variation intersects with the statewide anti-discrimination work and could inform decision-making processes such as identifying the possible disproportionate impact of the criminal justice system and evaluating the efficacy of work done to alleviate obstacles unique to LGBTQ+ and intersex youth populations; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2021, the House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of Human Services, in coordination with the Department of Health, is requested to collect data on lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer or questioning, pansexual, asexual, gender non-conforming, and intersex youth who are under the supervision of the courts and the Hawaii Youth Correctional Facility; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Public Safety shall work with the Sexual and Gender Minority Workgroup within the Department of Health to ensure that the data collection is administered in accordance with LGBTQ+ and intersex data collection best practices; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Director of Public Safety, Director of Health, and Director of Human Services.

OFFERED BY:

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