

MAR 05 2021

SENATE 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 Senate of the Thirty-first
7 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2021,
8 that the Department of Education is requested to convene a
9 working group to create a model statewide school policy on
10 student suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention in
11 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

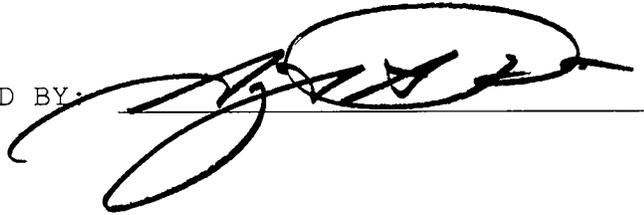
34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested
35 to review the impact of the suicide prevention policy every
36 fifth year and, if necessary, update the policy; and



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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, written over a horizontal line. The signature is highly stylized and cursive, with several loops and flourishes. It appears to be the name of the person offering the resolution.