

MAR 05 2021

SENATE CONCURRENT 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



S.C.R. NO. 63

1 signs of suicide and making the appropriate referrals for help;
2 and

3

4 WHEREAS, E Ola Hou Prevent Suicide Maui County Task Force
5 has been working with the Department of Education to provide
6 mandated suicide prevention training for all school employees;
7 now, therefore

8

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 the Department of
12 Education is requested to convene a working group to create a
13 model statewide school policy on student suicide prevention,
14 intervention, and postvention in grades K-12 by September 1,
15 2021; and

16

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the policy is requested to be
18 developed in consultation with school and community
19 stakeholders, school-employed mental health professionals and
20 suicide prevention experts and, at a minimum, address the
21 following:

22

23 (1) Mental health and substance use;

24

25 (2) Childhood abuse, neglect, or trauma;

26

27 (3) Prolonged stress, such as bullying or harassment and
28 stressful life events, including rejection, breakups,
29 or loss;

30

31 (4) Exposure to another person's suicide or
32 sensationalized depictions of suicide;

33

34 (5) Previous suicide attempts or history of suicide within
35 the family;

36

37 (6) How to use expertise of school employees who have been
38 trained in recognizing suicide risk and referral
39 procedures;



S.C.R. NO. 63

- 1 (7) How school employees should respond to a crisis
2 situation where a student is in imminent danger to the
3 student's self;
4
- 5 (8) Policies and protocols for communication with parents,
6 including those that specify how to proceed if
7 parental notification is not in the best interest of
8 the student;
9
- 10 (9) Counseling services available with the school for
11 students and their families related to suicide
12 prevention; and
13
- 14 (10) Development of a plan to assist survivors of attempted
15 suicide and assist students and school employees; and
16

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the policy is requested to
18 address the needs of high-risk groups, including but not limited
19 to the following:
20

- 21 (1) Youth with disabilities or with chronic health
22 conditions, including mental health and substance use
23 conditions;
24
- 25 (2) Youth experiencing homelessness or in out-of-home
26 settings, such as foster care; and
27
- 28 (3) Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender,
29 queer/questioning, intersex, asexual, and pansexual
30 (LGBTQ+) youth; and
31

32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is
33 requested to post this model policy by January 1, 2022, on the
34 Department's website, along with relevant resources and
35 information to support schools in developing and implementing
36 the policy; and
37

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

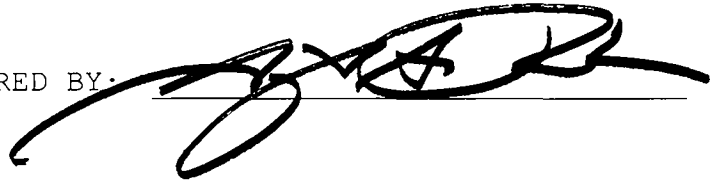


S.C.R. NO. 63

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
2 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the
3 Board of Education, Superintendent of Education, and Executive
4 Director of the State Public Charter School Commission.

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OFFERED BY:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "J. A. R.", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and cursive.