

MAR 12 2021

SENATE RESOLUTION

ENCOURAGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, COMPLEX AREAS, AND
CHARTER SCHOOLS TO IMPLEMENT SCHOOL-WIDE RESTORATIVE
JUSTICE 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 advancing the school to prison
6 pipeline; and

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8 WHEREAS, restorative justice is a values-based approach to
9 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 justice encourages 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 justice, in a school setting, shifts
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 justice focuses 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 justice
31 practices can lead to reductions in problem behavior,



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1 improvements in school climate, and increases in student
2 achievement, attendance, and 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 justice 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,
12 that the Department of Education, complex areas, and charter
13 schools are encouraged to implement school-wide restorative
14 justice initiative practices in Hawaii's public and charter
15 schools; and
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17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
18 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of
19 Education, Superintendent of Education, and Chairperson of the
20 State Charter School Commission.
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OFFERED BY:

