

MAR 11 2022

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO SUPPORT DEVELOPING ADDITIONAL MENTAL WELLNESS FACILITIES FOR CHILDREN, ADOLESCENTS, AND YOUNG ADULTS, IN ADDITION TO IMPROVING THE OVERALL CONTINUUM OF THEIR MENTAL HEALTH CARE, AS IDENTIFIED IN THE RECENT UNITED STATES SURGEON GENERAL'S ADVISORY.

1 WHEREAS, there are only two inpatient psychiatric medical
2 facilities in the State to care for children, adolescents, and
3 young adults with serious mental health needs; and
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5 WHEREAS, these two inpatient units are on Oahu at The
6 Queen's Medical Center and Kahi Mohala Hospital and have limited
7 designated bed space for children, adolescents, and young
8 adults; and
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10 WHEREAS, the urgent, disturbing need for additional
11 psychiatric beds is routinely experienced by families waiting in
12 an emergency room for hours and sometimes days with a child who
13 is "imminently dangerous to self and others"; and
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15 WHEREAS, although hospital beds are greatly needed,
16 improvement of the overall continuum of care is essential for
17 any hope of reaching and assisting the State's vulnerable
18 populations; and
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20 WHEREAS, the behavioral, mental health care, and treatment
21 for children, adolescents, and young adults are distinct from
22 those of adults, requiring specialized, well-documented, and
23 effective approaches, plans, and treatment facilities; and
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25 WHEREAS, helping a child includes helping the nuclear and
26 extended family, and the entire ohana, since family members
27 impact each other in both positive and negative ways, support
28 each other, and benefit from the improved health of those around
29 them; and
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1 WHEREAS, long-term, ongoing mental health problems have
2 challenged every facet of our country and society, having
3 touched nearly every person and resulting in generational
4 impacts, and the situation is only getting worse; and
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6 WHEREAS, significant treatment and equally important
7 preventative measures should be implemented immediately, as they
8 require long-term and steadfast commitment for success; and
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10 WHEREAS, the United States Surgeon General issued an
11 advisory on December 7, 2021, entitled Protecting Youth Mental
12 Health, calling on the nation to respond to the growing mental
13 health crisis impacting young people that has worsened with the
14 pandemic; and
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16 WHEREAS, the United States Surgeon General requested the
17 following actions be taken by federal, state, and local
18 governments:
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- 20 (1) Address the economic and social barriers that
21 contribute to poor mental health for young people,
22 families, and caregivers;
23
- 24 (2) Ensure safe experiences online for children and young
25 people;
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- 27 (3) Ensure all children and youth have comprehensive and
28 affordable coverage for mental health care;
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- 30 (4) Support integration of screening and treatment into
31 primary care;
32
- 33 (5) Provide resources and technical assistance to
34 strengthen school-based mental health programs;
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- 36 (6) Invest in prevention programs, such as evidence-based
37 social and emotional learning;
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- 39 (7) Expand the use of telehealth for mental challenges;
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- 41 (8) Expand and support the mental health workforce;
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- 1 (9) Expand and strengthen suicide prevention and mental
2 health crisis services;
- 3
- 4 (10) Improve coordination across all levels of government
5 to address youth mental health needs;
- 6
- 7 (11) Support continued reduction in bias, discrimination,
8 and stigma related to mental health;
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- 10 (12) Support the mental health needs of youth involved in
11 the juvenile justice system; and
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- 13 (13) Support the mental health needs of youth involved in
14 the child welfare system; and
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16 WHEREAS, the Department of Health should make every effort
17 to support the Surgeon General's action items; and

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19 WHEREAS, the University of Hawai'i System and their
20 professional schools and departments, including Law, Medicine,
21 Social Work, Public Health, Psychology, Medical Anthropology,
22 and Pharmacy may continue their overall efforts and enhance
23 their workforce preparation programs; and

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25 WHEREAS, more research is required to identify and further
26 investigate the very complex area of acquiring and maintaining
27 overall superior health, focusing on children, adolescents, and
28 young adults; and

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30 WHEREAS, when immediate needs are met and appropriate plans
31 are identified, the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands may be in
32 a position to support setting aside property to build a unique
33 treatment facility for children, adolescents, and young adults;
34 and

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36 WHEREAS, property provided by the Department of Hawaiian
37 Home Lands for treatment facilities will have a positive impact
38 on the general public as they help meet the needs in caring for
39 children, adolescents, and young adults; and

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1 WHEREAS, lease of land for treatment facilities may be an
2 income generating opportunity for the Department of Hawaiian
3 Home Lands leading towards less reliance from the State; and
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5 WHEREAS, this effort will support the passionate belief
6 that it takes the community to successfully build a strong
7 future for children, adolescents, and young adults in the State;
8 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 2022, the
12 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of
13 Health is urged to support developing additional mental wellness
14 facilities for children, adolescents, and young adults, in
15 addition to improving the overall continuum of their mental
16 health care, as identified in the December 7, 2021, United
17 States Surgeon General's advisory; and
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19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
20 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the United States
21 Surgeon General, Governor, Director of Health, President of the
22 University of Hawai'i System, Chairperson of the Hawaiian Homes
23 Commission, Dean of the John A. Burns School of Medicine, Chair
24 of the Board of Trustees of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, and
25 mayor of each county.
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OFFERED BY: _____

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. A.', is written over a horizontal line.