
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO CREATE A STUDENT-LED WORKING GROUP TO ADDRESS THE NEED FOR ACTIVE INCLUSION OF DIVERSE IDENTITIES WITHIN AND BEYOND SEXUAL HEALTH EDUCATION, TO TEACH CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE IDEAS AROUND MUTUAL RESPECT IN RELATIONSHIPS, AND TO FIND SITES OF POTENTIAL ACTIVE INCLUSION OF THESE IDENTITIES IN SEXUAL HEALTH CURRICULA, ALL WITHIN THE FRAMING PRINCIPLES OF ALOHA KEKAHI I KEKAHI.

1 WHEREAS, an important tenant of Hawaiian thought is "aloha
2 kekahi i kekahi", meaning to love, honor, and respect each
3 other; to treat each other with mutual dignity and cordiality;
4 and to engage with one another on the basis of mutual kindness,
5 caring, and love; and

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7 WHEREAS, because of the State's limited size and resources,
8 it is vital to respect and celebrate the diverse racial, ethnic,
9 gender, sexual, disability, and other identities that exist in
10 the State; and

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12 WHEREAS, students at the 2021 Hawaii Youth Summit
13 specifically requested action to ensure that sexual health
14 education curriculum includes accurate and affirmative
15 representations of diverse gender and other identities; and

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17 WHEREAS, general notions of inclusivity have not succeeded
18 at creating active inclusivity that fosters space for all
19 students to feel seen and represented in school and in personal
20 relationships; and

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22 WHEREAS, current educational materials and practices do not
23 reflect the range of gender expressions and sexual identities
24 that exist, which can lead to mental health issues, bullying,
25 and discrimination for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and
26 queer (LGBTQ+) students; and

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1 WHEREAS, teachers who do not understand diverse gender and
2 sexual orientations can have lasting negative impacts on
3 individual children's mental health as well as contribute to an
4 overall culture in schools that is hostile to students who may
5 not fit within a cis-hetero conception of personal identity and
6 affections; and

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8 WHEREAS, talking about gender and sexuality in a medically
9 accurate, open, and age appropriate way promotes greater health
10 and safety; and

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12 WHEREAS, educating young people about consent is an
13 extremely important component of protecting them from danger and
14 empowering them to make healthy decisions; and

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16 WHEREAS, LGBTQ+ Native Hawaiian youth experience compound
17 marginalization of their sexual identity, gender expression, and
18 cultural identity as a result of ongoing histories of
19 colonization and cultural repression; and

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21 WHEREAS, Native Hawaiian cultural practice exceeds the
22 heteronormative gender binary and provides us with pathways to
23 decolonizing relationships and building mutual respect and aloha
24 kekahi i kekahi; and

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26 WHEREAS, children and their families deserve an inviting
27 and comprehensive approach to sexual health education that
28 centers the development of respectful and kind relationships;
29 and

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31 WHEREAS, students have a clear understanding of the issues
32 and problems in their schooling and deserve to have a voice in
33 crafting their own futures and those of generations to come;
34 now, therefore,

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36 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
37 Thirty-first Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
38 of 2022, that the Department of Education is requested to form a
39 student-led working group to address the need for active
40 inclusion of diverse identities within and beyond sexual health
41 education, to teach culturally responsive ideas around mutual
42 respect in relationships, and to find sites of potential active



1 inclusion of these identities in sexual health curricula, all
2 within the framing principles of aloha kekahi i kekahi; and

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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group consist of:

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6 (1) Student advocates from across the islands, including
7 representatives from:

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9 (A) Gay-Straight Alliance Clubs;

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11 (B) The O'ahu Teen Council;

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13 (C) TeenLink Hawai'i; and

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15 (D) Other student organizations doing work on peer-
16 to-peer sexual health and relationship education;

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18 (2) Cultural experts, including but not limited to those
19 working with the Office of Hawaiian Education;

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21 (3) Experts in sexual health education; and

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23 (4) Teachers who are invested in the development of
24 comprehensive curriculum and programs; and

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26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested
27 to submit recommendations to the Department of Education for
28 teacher training, student curriculum, and any other materials or
29 programs the working group deems necessary to fulfill its goal;
30 and

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32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that working group members and the
33 Department of Education are urged to ensure that the concept of
34 aloha kekahi i kekahi, particularly as it pertains to diverse
35 sexual identities and gender expressions, is fully realized and
36 responsibly shared with the State's keiki; and

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38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
39 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Chairperson of the
40 Board of Education, and Interim Superintendent of Education.



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OFFERED BY:

Amy Peruso

MAR 11 2022

