
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO IMPLEMENT SENSORY
ROOMS FOR CHILDREN DIAGNOSED WITH AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER
IN ALL SCHOOLS.

1 WHEREAS, the National Institute of Mental Health describes
2 autism spectrum disorders as a group of developmental disorders
3 that affects communication and behavior and is said to be a
4 "developmental disorder" because symptoms generally appear in
5 the first two years of life; and
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7 WHEREAS, without the proper care and management at a young
8 age, children diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder may
9 have difficulty communicating and interacting with other people
10 and will experience symptoms that hurt their ability to function
11 properly in school, work, and other areas of life; and
12

13 WHEREAS, the Department of Education tracks the number of
14 students eligible for the Individuals with Disabilities
15 Education Act services under the autism spectrum disorder
16 category and based on the official December 2019 count, the
17 number of students with autism spectrum disorder is two thousand
18 eighty-eight; and
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20 WHEREAS, a sensory room is a therapeutic space with a
21 variety of equipment that provides students with special needs
22 with personalized sensory input; and
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24 WHEREAS, sensory rooms also help students calm and focus
25 themselves so they can be better prepared for learning and
26 interacting with others; and
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28 WHEREAS, installing sensory rooms in Hawaii's public
29 schools will help children learn to self-regulate their
30 behaviors and improve their focus, allowing them to achieve
31 success in the classroom; now, therefore,
32



H.R. NO. 178

1 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
2 Thirty-first Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
3 of 2022, that the Department of Education is requested to
4 implement sensory rooms for children diagnosed with autism
5 spectrum disorder in all schools; and

6
7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is
8 requested to implement sensory rooms as follows and in the
9 following order:

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11 (1) In all non-Oahu public elementary schools that do not
12 have special education classes;
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14 (2) In all other public elementary schools in the State;
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16 (3) In all non-Oahu public middle and intermediate schools
17 that do not have special education classes;
18
19 (4) In all other public middle and intermediate schools in
20 the State;
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22 (5) In all non-Oahu public high schools that do not have
23 special education classes; and
24
25 (6) In all other public high schools in the State; and

26
27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
28 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of
29 Education and Interim Superintendent of Education.

30
31
32 OFFERED BY: 

MAR 11 2022

