
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
TO WORK WITH COMMUNITY PARTNERS, INCLUDING THE YMCA OF
HONOLULU, TO SUPPORT THE MENTAL WELLNESS OF THE STATE'S
YOUTH.

1 WHEREAS, the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic
2 has negatively impacted the State's youth, preventing them from
3 meeting important social and developmental milestones and
4 stripping them of healthy coping mechanisms, such as socializing
5 with friends; and

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7 WHEREAS, recent national surveys of young people have shown
8 alarming increases in the prevalence of certain mental health
9 challenges, such as depression and anxiety; and

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11 WHEREAS, in early 2021, emergency room visits for suicide
12 attempts increased by fifty-one percent for adolescent girls and
13 four percent for adolescent boys compared to the same time
14 period in early 2019; and

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16 WHEREAS, in June 2021, a national analysis of data
17 collected from people seeking help with their mental health
18 during the COVID-19 pandemic ranked Hawaii as having the highest
19 percentage of survey participants who reported thinking about or
20 planning suicide; and

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22 WHEREAS, community organizations play an important role in
23 promoting healthy development and supporting children, youth,
24 and their families; and

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26 WHEREAS, the YMCA of Honolulu has a long track record of
27 providing services for the youth of Hawaii and prior to the
28 COVID-19 pandemic, served over forty thousand youth annually
29 through a variety of programs such as A+ After School Care,



1 summer programs, camps, pre-school and early learning programs,
2 aquatic programs, and teen leadership programs; and
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4 WHEREAS, the YMCA of Honolulu has proven success in working
5 with youth and can provide a community-based approach to support
6 youth at various points in their mental wellness pathway; now,
7 therefore,
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9 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first
10 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2022, the
11 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of
12 Health and Department of Human Services are urged to work with
13 community partners, including the YMCA of Honolulu, to support
14 the mental wellness of the State's youth; and
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16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
17 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health,
18 Director of Human Services, and President and Chief Executive
19 Officer of the YMCA of Honolulu.

