
HOUSE RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO ENSURE THAT EACH PUBLIC SCHOOL AND PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL IN THE STATE, FROM KINDERGARTEN THROUGH GRADE TWELVE HAS A CERTAIN NUMBER OF MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS.

1 WHEREAS, the State is experiencing an acute mental health
2 crisis among children and youth; and

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4 WHEREAS, school psychologists provide direct and indirect
5 support to evaluate and address students' intellectual
6 development, academic success, social-emotional learning, and
7 mental and behavioral health; and

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9 WHEREAS, school counselors counsel students and parents,
10 evaluate students' abilities, address learning problems, and
11 assist students in career and personal development; and

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13 WHEREAS, school psychologists and school counselors are
14 crucial to supporting the mental health and well-being of
15 students in school; and

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17 WHEREAS, the National Association of School Psychologists
18 recommends a ratio of one psychologist to five hundred students;
19 and

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21 WHEREAS, the American School Counselor Association
22 recommends a ratio of one school counselor to two hundred fifty
23 students; and

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25 WHEREAS, the public schools and public charter schools in
26 the State presently do not meet the recommendations by the
27 National Association of School Psychologists; and

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29 WHEREAS, ensuring adequate staffing levels of mental health
30 professionals consistent with recommended ratios will provide
31 Hawaii's keiki with critical support needed to address the
32 ongoing mental health crisis; now, therefore,

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1 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
2 Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
3 Session of 2024, that the Department of Education is urged to
4 ensure that each public school and public charter school in the
5 State, from kindergarten through grade twelve, employs, or
6 retains under contract, at least one mental health professional
7 for every two hundred fifty students enrolled; provided that if
8 a public school has fewer than two hundred fifty students
9 enrolled the school is urged to employ or retain under a
10 contract, at least one mental health professional; and
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12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that "mental health professional"
13 under this concurrent resolution means:
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- 15 (1) A licensed mental health counselor, as defined in
16 section 453D-1, Hawaii Revised Statutes;
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- 18 (2) A psychologist licensed to practice psychology under
19 chapter 465, Hawaii Revised Statutes;
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- 21 (3) A person employed as a school psychologist pursuant to
22 section 465-3(a)(3), Hawaii Revised Statutes;
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- 24 (4) A social worker, as defined in section 467E-1, Hawaii
25 Revised Statutes; or
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- 27 (5) A social worker exempt from licensure pursuant to
28 section 467E-6(2), Hawaii Revised Statutes; and
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30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is
31 requested to cooperate with other state agencies, as
32 appropriate, to ensure adequate staffing levels of mental health
33 professionals in public schools and public charter schools; and
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35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is
36 requested to submit a progress report to the Legislature no
37 later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular
38 Session of 2025, detailing the progress made toward meeting the
39 benchmark requiring each public school and public charter school
40 in the State, from kindergarten through grade twelve, to employ,
41 or retain under contract, the number of mental health
42 professionals set forth in this concurrent resolution; and



