# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HEALTH EDUCATION.

#### BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

- 1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that according to a 2021
- 2 United States Surgeon General's Advisory on protecting youth
- 3 mental health, the growing use of digital social media;
- 4 increased academic pressure; limited access to mental health
- 5 care; health risk behaviors such as drug and alcohol use; and
- 6 broader stressors such as finances, income inequality, and
- 7 racism; all contribute to the upward trend in mental health
- 8 challenges facing young people. Additionally, a 2021 Centers
- 9 for Disease Control and Prevention analysis states that nearly
- 10 forty per cent of high school students reported experiencing
- 11 poor mental health during the coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic,
- 12 and forty-four per cent reported persistent feelings of sadness
- 13 or hopelessness in the prior year. Therefore, providing
- 14 behavioral health education in the State's public schools can
- 15 assist students to better understand their feelings about and
- 16 responses to various situations, and where to get help.

# S.B. NO. 2001

The purpose of this Act is to require the department of 1 education to include the teaching of behavioral health 2 3 curricula, including mental health wellness, for students in 4 grades kindergarten through twelve. SECTION 2. Chapter 302A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is 5 amended by adding a new section to part II, subpart B, to be 6 7 appropriately designated and to read as follows: 8 "§302A- Behavioral health; curricula plan; public 9 schools. (a) The department shall develop and implement a 10 statewide behavioral health curricula plan for public school 11 students in kindergarten through twelfth grade. (b) The curriculum shall include but not be limited to 12 13 age-appropriate information on: 14 (1) Mental and emotional health; 15 (2) Personal health and wellness; Healthy eating and physical activity; 16 (3) 17 Safety, including unintentional injury and prevention; (4)Violence prevention; 18 (5) 19 Tobacco use and prevention; (6) 20 (7) Alcohol and other drug use prevention; and Sexual health and responsibility. 21 (8)

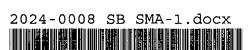
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- 1 The department shall review and determine into which courses
- 2 behavioral health curricula shall be integrated.
- 3 (c) Only a qualified health teacher shall teach behavioral
- 4 health courses."

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- 5 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.
- 6 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

INTRODUCED BY:



## S.B. NO. 2001

### Report Title:

DOE; Behavioral Health; Mental Health Wellness; Curricula; K-12 Coursework

### Description:

Requires the Department of Education to include the teaching of behavioral health, including mental health wellness, in grades kindergarten through twelve.

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