

MAR 07 2024

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# SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT  
A STATEWIDE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CURRICULA PLAN FOR PUBLIC  
SCHOOL STUDENTS IN GRADES KINDERGARTEN THROUGH TWELVE.

1           WHEREAS, according to a 2021 United States Surgeon  
2 General's Advisory on protecting youth mental health, the  
3 growing use of digital social media; increased academic  
4 pressure; limited access to mental health care; health risk  
5 behaviors such as drug and alcohol use; broader stressors such  
6 as finance, income inequality, and racism, all contribute to the  
7 upward trend in mental health challenges facing young people;  
8 and  
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10           WHEREAS, a 2021 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
11 analysis states that nearly forty percent of high school  
12 students reported experiencing poor mental health during the  
13 coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic and forty-four percent of high  
14 school students reported persistent feelings of sadness or  
15 helplessness in the prior year; and  
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17           WHEREAS, providing behavioral health education in the  
18 State's public schools can assist students to better understand  
19 their feelings about, and responses to, various situations and  
20 where to get help; now, therefore,  
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22           BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second  
23 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2024,  
24 that the Department of Education is requested to develop and  
25 implement a statewide behavioral health curricula plan for  
26 public school students in kindergarten through twelfth grade;  
27 and  
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29           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the curriculum include but not  
30 be limited to age-appropriate information on:  
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- 32           (1) Mental and emotional health;  
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34           (2) Personal health and wellness;  
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- 1 (3) Healthy eating and physical activity;
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- 3 (4) Safety, including unintentional injury and prevention;
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- 5 (5) Violence prevention;
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- 7 (6) Tobacco use and prevention;
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- 9 (7) Alcohol and other drug use prevention; and
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- 11 (8) Sexual health and responsibility; and
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13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is  
14 requested to review and determine into which courses the  
15 behavioral health curricula be integrated; and

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17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that only qualified health teachers  
18 are requested to teach behavioral health courses; and

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20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
21 Resolution be transmitted to Chairperson of the Board of  
22 Education and Superintendent of Education.

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OFFERED BY: 

