

MAR 08 2024

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, TO PRODUCE A PLAN FOR ADHERING TO SCHOOL COUNSELOR BEST PRACTICES.

1 WHEREAS, school counselors play a critical role in ensuring
2 students' academic, career, social, and emotional development
3 and in promoting equity and access to opportunities and
4 educational experiences for all students; and

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6 WHEREAS, school counselors support students' postsecondary
7 access and success by helping them navigate the college
8 admissions process, explore career opportunities, and develop
9 essential life skills; and

10
11 WHEREAS, school counselors also provide preventative and
12 responsive services, such as individual student planning and
13 systems support, to help students overcome barriers that may
14 impede their academic and postsecondary success; and

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16 WHEREAS, just half of Hawaii public school graduates in the
17 2022-2023 school year enrolled in a postsecondary education
18 institution in the fall after graduation; and

19
20 WHEREAS, students are at risk of the "summer melt"
21 phenomenon, whereby about ten to twenty percent of high school
22 graduates who apply and are accepted to college - most of which
23 are low-income - choose not to attend; and

24
25 WHEREAS, the progression of students from high school to
26 postsecondary education and career readiness requires year-round
27 support, including during the summer months when important
28 transitions occur; and

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30 WHEREAS, having a twelve-month school counselor can ensure
31 continuity of support for students, particularly for those who
32 may not have access to such support outside of school; and



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2 WHEREAS, grant-funded summer transition programs through
3 local organizations, such as Hawaii P-20, have served more than
4 four thousand students between 2020 and 2023, helping them
5 access over \$3,500,000 in scholarships; and
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7 WHEREAS, students also benefit from more individualized
8 attention from their school counselors; and
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10 WHEREAS, the American School Counselor Association (ASCA)
11 recommends a student-to-school counselor ratio of two-hundred-
12 to-one to effectively address the comprehensive needs of all
13 students, yet just sixty-two percent of Hawaii public middle and
14 high schools meet this recommendation; and
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16 WHEREAS, the ASCA recommends that a minimum of eighty
17 percent of a school counselor's time should be spent in direct
18 and indirect student services, yet Hawaii public middle and high
19 school counselors report only being able to spend seventy-three
20 percent of their time on these services; and
21

22 WHEREAS, the ASCA provides a clear definition of the
23 appropriate activities that should be the focus of counselors to
24 maximize impact for students, yet Hawaii public intermediate,
25 middle, and high school counselors report having a more clearly
26 defined job description as one of their top needs; now,
27 therefore,
28

29 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second
30 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2024,
31 that the Board of Education, in partnership with the Department
32 of Education, is requested to produce a plan for adhering to
33 school counselor best practices; and
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35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in preparing the plan, the
36 Board of Education is requested to include the following:
37

- 38 (1) How the Department of Education can ensure that every
39 public high school in the State can be staffed with at
40 least one full-time, twelve-month school counselor, in
41 accordance with the ASCA's recommended student-to-
42 counselor ratio;



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- 2 (2) How the Department of Education can ensure that the
- 3 role and job descriptions of school counselors align
- 4 with the ASCA's role statement, emphasizing their role
- 5 in supporting students' postsecondary access and
- 6 success;
- 7
- 8 (3) How the Department of Education can provide school
- 9 counselors with the necessary resources and training
- 10 to effectively support students in their academic,
- 11 career, social, and emotional development;
- 12
- 13 (4) How the Department of Education can encourage school
- 14 administrators to create supportive environments that
- 15 allow school counselors to focus on direct and
- 16 indirect services to students, rather than
- 17 administrative tasks; and
- 18
- 19 (5) How the Department of Education can support the
- 20 development and implementation of comprehensive school
- 21 counseling programs that address the needs of all
- 22 students; and
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24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education is
25 requested to submit its plan, including any proposed
26 legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior
27 to the convening of the Regular Session of 2025; and

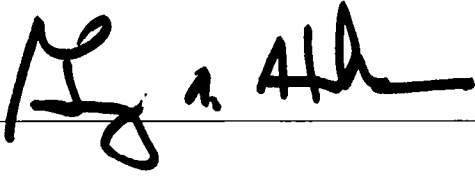
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29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
30 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of
31 Education, Superintendent of Education, and President of the
32 University of Hawaii System.



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OFFERED BY:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'R. A. H.', written over a horizontal line.

