

MAR 07 2025

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR TO INCREASE KNOWLEDGE AND USE OF NATIVE
HAWAIIAN CONCEPTS AND PRACTICES ON HEALTH AND WELL-BEING IN
THE STATE COUNCIL ON MENTAL HEALTH.

1 WHEREAS, youth suicide attempts and death rates in Hawaii
2 are highest amongst Native Hawaiians, profoundly impacting their
3 families and communities; and

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5 WHEREAS, Native Hawaiians experience unique mental health
6 disparities that pervade their day-to-day well-being and hinder
7 their overall health; and

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9 WHEREAS, mental health disparities experienced by Native
10 Hawaiians start in childhood and persist throughout adulthood;
11 and

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13 WHEREAS, Native Hawaiians tend to underutilize mental
14 health services, seeking therapy only after a mental illness
15 becomes severe, and are more likely to leave treatment programs
16 prematurely; and

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18 WHEREAS, studies on Native Hawaiian mental health
19 illustrate the need for state interventions and confirm that
20 culturally-based programs are four times more successful at
21 addressing Native Hawaiians' specific mental health needs; and

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23 WHEREAS, the State Council on Mental Health is responsible
24 for reviewing, evaluating, and advising on the allocation and
25 adequacy of the State's mental health resources; and

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27 WHEREAS, the Legislature recognizes its obligation to
28 address health disparities throughout the State; now, therefore

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30 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third
31 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2025, the



S.C.R. NO. 225

1 House of Representative Concurring, that the Governor of the
2 State is urged to ensure that:

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4 (1) At least 2 members of the State Council on Mental
5 Health demonstrate knowledge of or work experience
6 involving Native Hawaiian concepts of well-being,
7 culturally grounded mental health methodologies, or
8 traditional healing and health practices; and
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10 (2) Members of the Council receive annual training,
11 conducted by the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, on topics
12 related to Native Hawaiian healing and health,
13 including training on cultural awareness and loss of
14 ethnic identity; and
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16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
17 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor and Chairperson of the
18 State Council on Mental Health.
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OFFERED BY: *Kurt Ferrell*