

MAR 07 2025

## SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE OFFICE OF WELLNESS AND RESILIENCE TO DEVELOP A  
REPORT TO ADDRESS THE DEVELOPMENTAL NEEDS OF CHILDREN BORN  
DURING THE CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 PANDEMIC.

1 WHEREAS, the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic  
2 has had profound effects on children born between the years  
3 2018-2025, disrupting their social, emotional, academic, and  
4 health development during their most critical early years; and  
5

6 WHEREAS, scientific evidence and expert testimonies  
7 indicate that many children in this age group are experiencing  
8 developmental delays, including challenges in communication,  
9 fine motor skills, emotional regulation, and social interaction;  
10 and  
11

12 WHEREAS, early childhood education and support during these  
13 formative years are crucial for long-term academic success and  
14 overall well-being, yet these children may face compounded  
15 challenges as they transition into middle and high school; and  
16

17 WHEREAS, children who were born and raised during the  
18 COVID-19 pandemic, especially those from birth to age five, are  
19 at heightened risk for academic and developmental setbacks due  
20 to the unique circumstances of their upbringing, including  
21 reduced social interactions, increased screen time, and  
22 disrupted routines; and  
23

24 WHEREAS, families across the State endured significant  
25 challenges during the COVID-19 pandemic, including heightened  
26 fear of contracting the virus, economic instability due to  
27 inflation and loss of income, and increased food and housing  
28 insecurity; and  
29



1 WHEREAS, caregivers have faced the additional burden of  
2 adapting to online education for their children while managing  
3 toxic stress within households, which has adversely affected the  
4 social and emotional well-being of children from birth to age  
5 five, a critical period for early childhood development; and  
6

7 WHEREAS, climate crisis, such as the 2018 Kilauea eruption  
8 and 2023 Maui wildfires, have further compounded the trauma for  
9 children in affected areas, leading to additional challenges in  
10 emotional and psychological well-being, especially for those who  
11 were already vulnerable due to the COVID-19 pandemic; and  
12

13 WHEREAS, trauma can have profound negative impacts on  
14 students' social, emotional, and behavioral needs; and  
15

16 WHEREAS, disparities in developmental outcomes have been  
17 observed, disproportionately affecting children from  
18 economically disadvantaged, minority, rural, and remote  
19 communities, including Native Hawaiian communities; and  
20

21 WHEREAS, recovery and catch-up interventions for these  
22 children are essential to mitigate long-term impacts on their  
23 educational and life trajectories; and  
24

25 WHEREAS, educators and others who work with children have  
26 also been profoundly impacted by the stressors of the COVID-19  
27 pandemic, facing increased demands, and limited resources, as  
28 well as their own experiences of toxic stress, leading to a  
29 record number of educators leaving the profession and fewer  
30 individuals entering the field; and  
31

32 WHEREAS, the cascading effects of trauma within families,  
33 schools, and communities have placed a significant strain on  
34 community-based providers responsible for the care and  
35 development of children, further challenging their ability to  
36 support the social-emotional needs of children and families;  
37 now, therefore,  
38

39 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third  
40 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2025, the  
41 House of Representatives concurring, that the Office of Wellness  
42 and Resilience is requested to develop a report to address the



1 developmental needs of children born during the coronavirus  
2 disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic; and

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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Office of Wellness and  
5 Resilience is requested to include the following in its report:

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7 (1) Trauma-informed care research and practices that:

8  
9 (A) Identify the nature of trauma and the effects of  
10 acute or chronic exposure to trauma;

11  
12 (B) Present interventions and strategies to resist  
13 re-traumatization for those impacted by trauma;  
14 and

15  
16 (C) Recommend cultural practices and research-  
17 practiced, evidence-based interventions to  
18 support children's transitions into middle  
19 school, high school, and post-high school life;

20  
21 (2) An outline of the existing services offered by the  
22 Department of Education, Department of Health,  
23 Department of Human Services, Office of Hawaiian  
24 Affairs, Executive Office on Early Learning, and key  
25 non-profits and community groups to address social and  
26 emotional learning loss experienced during the COVID-  
27 19 pandemic;

28  
29 (3) A comprehensive analysis of the services available for  
30 individuals and families affected by the 2023 Maui  
31 wildfires;

32  
33 (4) Information on existing services to support educators  
34 and those who work directly with children and families  
35 who may suffer from secondary traumatic stress due to  
36 the COVID-19 pandemic and 2023 Maui wildfires; and

37  
38 (5) Recommendations to strengthen efforts to support  
39 frontline workers' self-care plans and provide  
40 interventions to promote resiliency and well-being;  
41 and  
42



# S.C.R. NO. 73

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Office of Wellness and  
2 Resilience is requested to submit its report, including any  
3 proposed legislation, to the Legislature by December 31, 2025;  
4 and

5  
6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
7 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor and  
8 Director of the Office of Wellness and Resilience.  
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10  
11 OFFERED BY: 

