

MAR 07 2025

SENATE 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
32 House of Representative Concurring, that the Governor of the
33 State is urged to ensure that:
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- 1 (1) At least 2 members of the State Council on Mental
2 Health demonstrate knowledge of or work experience
3 involving Native Hawaiian concepts of well-being,
4 culturally grounded mental health methodologies, or
5 traditional healing and health practices; and
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7 (2) Members of the Council receive annual training,
8 conducted by the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, on topics
9 related to Native Hawaiian healing and health,
10 including training on cultural awareness and loss of
11 ethnic identity; and
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13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
14 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor and Chairperson of the
15 State Council on Mental Health.
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OFFERED BY:

