

MAR 16 2026

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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE HAWAII STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO ENSURE  
GOOD FAITH IMPLEMENTATION OF ITS DOCTORAL EDUCATIONAL  
PSYCHOLOGY STIPEND AGREEMENTS AND TO ESTABLISH AND FUND  
APPROPRIATE EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGIST POSITIONS CONSISTENT  
WITH CONTRACTUAL COMMITMENTS.

1           WHEREAS, the Hawaii State Department of Education  
2 (hereinafter "department") entered into a Contract and  
3 Promissory Note in partnership with Chaminade University to  
4 address the shortage of qualified licensed mental health  
5 providers in Hawai'i's public schools; and  
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7           WHEREAS, the Contract expressly states that stipends were  
8 awarded to individuals pursuing a Doctorate in Education in  
9 Educational Psychology whose professional class specifications  
10 focus on the delivery of essential interventions to students  
11 with intensive mental health needs; and  
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13           WHEREAS, under the terms of the Contract, stipend  
14 recipients agreed to complete sixty (60) credits toward a  
15 Doctorate in Education in Educational Psychology, obtain  
16 licensure through the Department of Commerce and Consumer  
17 Affairs as a Mental Health Counselor or related license, and  
18 commit to three (3) years of full-time employment with the  
19 Department as an Educational Psychologist or other agreed upon  
20 capacity as the Department determines; and  
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22           WHEREAS, the Contract further provides that if the  
23 Department is unable to place a qualified recipient in a full-  
24 time Educational Psychologist or other agreed upon capacity, the  
25 recipient shall not be held responsible for time that passes  
26 until such a position is offered; and  
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28           WHEREAS, the Department has created a position titled  
29 "Mental Health Interventionist," which may not fully reflect the



1 doctoral-level preparation and educational psychology  
2 specialization contemplated by the stipend program; and

3  
4 WHEREAS, concerns have been raised that such positions have  
5 not been made widely available throughout the Department's  
6 system, potentially limiting the Department's ability to fulfill  
7 its workforce commitments and to maximize the benefit of  
8 doctoral-level training; and

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10 WHEREAS, ensuring that contractual obligations are  
11 implemented in good faith promotes workforce stability, fiscal  
12 accountability, and fairness to professionals who relied upon  
13 representations made in exchange for multi-year service  
14 commitments; and

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16 WHEREAS, Hawai'i continues to face a significant shortage  
17 of qualified school-based mental health professionals to meet  
18 the intensive needs of students statewide; now, therefore,

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20 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-  
21 third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
22 of 2026, the House of Representatives concurring, that the  
23 Hawaii State Department of Education is requested to:

- 24
- 25 1. Provide the Legislature with a report detailing:
    - 26 a. The number of stipend recipients under the Doctoral
    - 27 Educational Psychology program;
    - 28 b. The number of established Educational Psychologist
    - 29 positions within the Department;
    - 30 c. The number and geographic distribution of Mental Health
    - 31 Interventionist positions;
    - 32 d. How the duties and class specifications of the Mental
    - 33 Health Interventionist position compare to those of an
    - 34 Educational Psychologist; and
    - 35 e. The Department's plan to ensure appropriate
    - 36 placement consistent with the contractual commitments
    - 37 made to stipend recipients;
  - 38 2. Evaluate whether the current Mental Health Interventionist
  - 39 classification appropriately reflects doctoral-level
  - 40 educational psychology training and licensure;
  - 41 3. Identify funding and position authority necessary to expand
  - 42 Educational Psychologist positions statewide to meet both



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1 student mental health needs and contractual workforce  
2 commitments; and

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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department is requested  
5 to submit its report to the Legislature no later than twenty  
6 days prior to the Regular Session of 2027; and

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8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
9 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Department of  
10 Education Superintendent of Education, the Chairperson of the  
11 Board of Education, and the President of Chaminade University.

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OFFERED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

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