

MAR 16 2026

SENATE 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
30 doctoral-level preparation and educational psychology
31 specialization contemplated by the stipend program; and



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2 WHEREAS, concerns have been raised that such positions have
3 not been made widely available throughout the Department's
4 system, potentially limiting the Department's ability to fulfill
5 its workforce commitments and to maximize the benefit of
6 doctoral-level training; and
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8 WHEREAS, ensuring that contractual obligations are
9 implemented in good faith promotes workforce stability, fiscal
10 accountability, and fairness to professionals who relied upon
11 representations made in exchange for multi-year service
12 commitments; and
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14 WHEREAS, Hawai'i continues to face a significant shortage
15 of qualified school-based mental health professionals to meet
16 the intensive needs of students statewide; now, therefore,
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18 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-
19 third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
20 of 2026, that the Hawaii State Department of Education is
21 requested to:
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- 23 1. Provide the Legislature with a report detailing:
24 a. The number of stipend recipients under the Doctoral
25 Educational Psychology program;
26 b. The number of established Educational Psychologist
27 positions within the Department;
28 c. The number and geographic distribution of Mental Health
29 Interventionist positions;
30 d. How the duties and class specifications of the Mental
31 Health Interventionist position compare to those of an
32 Educational Psychologist; and
33 e. The Department's plan to ensure appropriate
34 placement consistent with the contractual commitments
35 made to stipend recipients;
36 2. Evaluate whether the current Mental Health Interventionist
37 classification appropriately reflects doctoral-level
38 educational psychology training and licensure;
39 3. Identify funding and position authority necessary to expand
40 Educational Psychologist positions statewide to meet both
41 student mental health needs and contractual workforce
42 commitments; and



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2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department is requested
3 to submit its report to the Legislature no later than twenty
4 days prior to the Regular Session of 2027; and
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6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
7 Resolution be transmitted to the Department of Education
8 Superintendent of Education, the Chairperson of the Board of
9 Education, and the President of Chaminade University.
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OFFERED BY:  _____

