

MAR 08 2019

SENATE RESOLUTION

ENCOURAGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND OTHER AGENCY AND
COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDERS TO CONTINUE MEETING AS A WORKING
GROUP FOR SEXUAL VIOLENCE PREVENTION EDUCATION IN PUBLIC
SCHOOLS.

1 WHEREAS, sexual violence remains a serious and ongoing
2 threat to the safety and health of children and young people in
3 the State; and

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5 WHEREAS, more than half of sexual violence survivors who
6 receive services at Hawaii's sexual assault centers reported
7 that they experienced their abuse before the age of eighteen
8 years; and

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10 WHEREAS, the United States Centers for Disease Control and
11 Prevention's Hawaii Youth Risk Behavior Survey for 2013, 2015,
12 and 2017 indicated that children and young people in Hawaii
13 experience sexual violence at rates equivalent to or higher than
14 their mainland counterparts, and in some Hawaii counties these
15 rates are substantially higher than elsewhere in the United
16 States; and

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18 WHEREAS, the Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women
19 and Arizona State University Office on Sex Trafficking
20 Intervention's 2019 report, "Sex Trafficking in Hawaii: The
21 Stories of Survivors", recommended that Hawaii adopt public
22 school sexual violence prevention education as a preventative
23 measure to protect students from being trafficked; and

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25 WHEREAS, the Department of Education and Board of Education
26 are committed to the tenets of Title IX and have significantly
27 invested efforts in developing more robust systems to
28 investigate and respond to allegations of sexual assault,
29 bullying, harassment, and other forms of sexual violence in
30 public schools; and

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32 WHEREAS, the Department of Education's Hawaii Content and
33 Performance Standards III includes a content area entitled
34 "Promoting Safety and Preventing Violence and Unintentional



1 Injury" that addresses violence prevention as a priority risk
2 topic; and

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4 WHEREAS, implementation of a program for sexual violence
5 prevention education in public schools is important to protect
6 children and young people in the State and position the
7 Department of Education's Title IX and anti-bullying efforts up
8 for success; and

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10 WHEREAS, prevention-oriented child sexual abuse programs
11 for public school students, school personnel, and parents and
12 guardians, known as "Erin's Law" after an Illinois survivor of
13 child sexual abuse, have been implemented at the state- and
14 district-level in thirty-five other states and the Territory of
15 Guam and are under consideration by the remaining fifteen
16 states; and

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18 WHEREAS, in October 2018, the Department of Education
19 established a working group to collaborate with other
20 stakeholders to review Hawaii public schools' current
21 prevention-oriented child sexual abuse programs and resources
22 and initiate recommendations to enhance integrated,
23 comprehensive and sustained support to ensure the well-being of
24 our youth; now, therefore,

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26 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirtieth Legislature
27 of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2019, that the
28 Department of Education and other agency and community
29 stakeholders are encouraged to continue meeting as a working
30 group for sexual violence prevention education in public
31 schools; and

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33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested
34 to submit a report on updates of its progress and any policy and
35 resource recommendations to the Legislature and Board of
36 Education at least twenty days prior to the convening of the
37 Regular Sessions of 2020 and 2021; and

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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
2 Resolution be transmitted to the Chair of the Board of Education
3 and Superintendent of Education.
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OFFERED BY Michelle Sidani

DAVID D. ...

Mark

Ernie R. ...

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D. K. ...

Charles Nishikawa