
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ERIN'S LAW TASK FORCE.

1 WHEREAS, sexual abuse remains a serious and ongoing threat
2 to the safety, health, and well-being of children and young
3 people in the State of Hawaii; and
4

5 WHEREAS, although programs and Department of Education-
6 approved curricula currently exist in the State of Hawaii for
7 the purpose of providing training to school teachers and staff,
8 and sexual abuse prevention education to students,
9 implementation is not consistent system wide and resources for
10 the provision of training and education are limited; and
11

12 WHEREAS, students in Hawaii may not receive regular,
13 consistent child abuse prevention education, nor are parents
14 informed about child sexual abuse topics; and
15

16 WHEREAS, many school teachers and staff do not receive
17 sufficient training on talking to students about child sexual
18 abuse prevention or on the effects of child sexual abuse on
19 children, handling sexual abuse disclosures, and mandated
20 reporting; and
21

22 WHEREAS, laws requiring that public school systems
23 implement a program of regular, consistent sexual abuse
24 prevention education for students, teacher and staff training,
25 and parental involvement have passed in twenty-six other states
26 and the territory of Guam, have been introduced in the
27 legislatures of sixteen others, and represent a national trend
28 in safety, health, and well-being education; and
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30 WHEREAS, the above-referenced laws are collectively
31 referred to as "Erin's Law" after an Illinois survivor of child
32 sexual abuse, Erin Merryn, who has led the national movement for
33 required programs for child abuse prevention education; now,
34 therefore,
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36 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
37 Twenty-eighth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular



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1 Session of 2016, that the Department of Education is requested
2 to establish an Erin's Law Task Force; and

3
4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to
5 comprise the following:

- 6
7 (1) A Deputy Superintendent of the Department of
8 Education, to be designated by the Superintendent;
- 9
10 (2) The Director of Health, or the Director's designee;
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12 (3) The Director of Human Services, or the Director's
13 designee;
- 14
15 (4) The Attorney General, or the Attorney General's
16 designee;
- 17
18 (5) The Executive Director of the Hawaii Youth Services
19 Network, or the Director's designee;
- 20
21 (6) The Executive Director of the Sex Abuse Treatment
22 Center, or the Director's designee;
- 23
24 (7) A member of the Senate, to be designated by the Senate
25 President;
- 26
27 (8) A member of the House of Representatives, to be
28 designated by the Speaker of the House of
29 Representatives;
- 30
31 (9) A non-legislative member of the Keiki Caucus of the
32 Hawaii Legislature, to be designated by the Caucus;
- 33
34 (10) A member of the Board of Education to be designated by
35 the Board Chairperson; and
- 36
37 (11) The Executive Directors, or their designees, of four
38 additional community organizations involved in
39 providing direct services addressing sexual abuse in
40 elementary, intermediate, and high school aged
41 children and youth in Hawaii to be designated by the
42 task force members; and



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2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the member designated by the
3 Senate President and the member designated by the Speaker of the
4 House of Representatives serve as the co-chairs of the task
5 force; and

6
7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that an initial meeting be held no
8 later than August 12, 2016; and

9
10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to
11 consider the following concepts when reviewing current policies,
12 programs, and curricula and making recommendations for the
13 establishment of a program:

- 14
15 (1) Current resources available in the State for educating
16 students in the public school system about sexual
17 abuse prevention;
18
19 (2) Existing gaps in child sexual abuse prevention
20 education, including education, training, and
21 information, as needed, for students, school teachers
22 and staff, and parents and guardians;
23
24 (3) The Hawaii Content and Performance Standards;
25
26 (4) Required elements for an instructional program for
27 students in grades pre-kindergarten through twelve,
28 including but not limited to:
29
30 (A) Techniques to teach children to recognize sexual
31 abuse, equip them with skills to reduce their
32 vulnerability, and encourage them to report the
33 abuse;
34
35 (B) At least four sessions of instruction to
36 reinforce the concepts learned in the program;
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38 (C) Sessions conducted annually, building on skills
39 and knowledge learned in previous years;
40
41 (D) Developmentally appropriate instruction for each
42 grade level;



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- 1
2 (E) Involvement of students as active learning
3 participants, through such methods as discussion,
4 modeling, and role playing;
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- 6 (F) Capacity to be delivered by a range of personnel
7 and professionals, including but not limited to
8 teachers, school counselors, and outside agency
9 prevention educators, provided that the personnel
10 and professionals should have a thorough
11 knowledge of child sexual abuse, including how to
12 respond appropriately to sexual abuse
13 disclosures;
14
- 15 (G) An evaluation component with measurable outcomes;
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- 17 (H) Instruction that is culturally sensitive and
18 adaptable for use within varying school contexts,
19 including age, race, and special needs;
20
- 21 (I) The use of evidence-based, age appropriate
22 curricula that uses discussions, role plays,
23 activities, books, or other appropriate
24 educational materials and methods, to the extent
25 possible;
26
- 27 (J) A professional training component for
28 administrators, teachers, and other school
29 personnel on talking to students about child
30 sexual abuse prevention, effects of child sexual
31 abuse on children, handling of sexual abuse
32 disclosures, and mandated reporting; and
33
- 34 (K) A component that encourages parental or guardian
35 involvement within the child sexual abuse
36 program, which should inform parents or guardians
37 about child sexual abuse topics, including
38 discussion of child sexual abuse myths,
39 characteristics of offenders, grooming behaviors,
40 and how to discuss this topic with children;
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- 1 (5) Title IX and any other federal and state laws and
- 2 policies concerning public school systems' handling of
- 3 sexual violence issues, to the extent that they relate
- 4 to sexual abuse prevention education;
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- 6 (6) Resources needed to implement a system wide program
- 7 for child sexual abuse prevention education; and
- 8
- 9 (7) Updates to law or policy that would assist in the
- 10 implementation of a statewide program for child sexual
- 11 abuse prevention education; and
- 12

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to
 14 submit a report of its findings and recommendations, including
 15 any proposed legislation, to the legislature no later than
 16 twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of
 17 2017, and a follow-up report, including any additional proposed
 18 legislation, no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
 19 the Regular Session of 2018; and

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 21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be dissolved on
 22 June 30, 2018; and

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 24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 25 Resolution be transmitted to the Chair of the Board of
 26 Education, Superintendent of Education, Director of Health,
 27 Director of Human Services, Attorney General, Executive Director
 28 of the Hawaii Youth Services Network, Executive Director of the
 29 Sex Abuse Treatment Center, Senate President, and Speaker of the
 30 House of Representatives.

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OFFERED BY:

John M. ...
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W. A. ...
[Signature]

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