A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO TRAUMA-INFORMED EDUCATION.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

SECTION 1. The legislature finds that incorporating trauma-informed education in the State's public education system will help to address adverse childhood experiences. Trauma-informed education involves mental health education for students, teachers, staff, parents, and community members, adds a flexible, responsive, and measured strategy for addressing trauma, and would be an important component to the department of education's multi-tier system of supports. Incorporating a trauma-informed education program in the public schools will enhance the staff's trauma awareness and skills to recognize behavior that results from exposure to trauma.

The legislature further finds that trauma-informed education shifts the mindset of schools from discipline-oriented to relationship-oriented and from exclusionary practices to inclusionary practices, which can help reduce suspension rates. Trauma-informed education also creates a compassionate school culture, which has a positive impact and addresses the whole
child and engages families and communities. It further promotes
social and emotional learning in schools and focuses on
providing resources for students, rather than negative
consequences such as suspensions and expulsions. The
legislature also finds that trauma-informed education changes
the culture of the school, creates social connectiveness,
provides concrete support in times of need, teaches social and
emotional competence, and promotes resilience, attachment and
belonging, capability, and self-empowerment.

The legislature additionally finds that the Nanakuli-
Waianae complex area has incorporated trauma-informed education
into its schools and, since 2015, has seen a reduction in the
suspension and absenteeism rates and an increase in graduation
and teacher retention rates.

The purpose of this Act is to require the department of
education to establish a three-year pilot program to develop a
trauma-informed education program in the Castle-Kahuku and
Kailua-Kalaheo complex areas, based on the Nanakuli-Waianae
complex area's trauma-informed education program.

SECTION 2. The department of education shall establish a
three-year pilot program for the development and implementation
of a trauma-informed education program in the Castle-Kahuku and
Kailua-Kalaheo complex areas based on the Nanakuli-Waianae
complex area trauma-informed education program. The goal of the
pilot program shall be to replicate the results of the Nanakuli-
Waianae complex area trauma-informed education program
throughout all schools in the Castle-Kahuku and Kailua-Kalaheo
complex areas, including elementary, intermediate, and high
schools, and pre-kindergarten programs that are part of the
elementary school. The pilot program shall terminate on June

SECTION 3. The department of education shall submit a
report to the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the
convening of the regular session of 2023. The report shall
include:

(1) The department's progress in implementing the pilot
program in the Castle-Kahuku and Kailua-Kalaheo
complex areas, and if applicable, any additional time
and resources necessary to fully implement the pilot
program;

(2) The results of the pilot program and the methodology
used in determining those results;
(3) Whether the required trauma-informed education program should be terminated, extended, or revised and the feasibility of expanding the pilot program to other complex areas;

(4) A projected cost estimate to fully implement the pilot program throughout department of education public schools, projected costs to maintain the program for another ten years, and the means to finance the program;

(5) Any proposed legislation; and

(6) Any other relevant information.

SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of $ or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2020-2021 for the three-year pilot program established pursuant to this Act, including for training purposes, and shall be used for the salary and benefit of the following positions:

(1) One temporary twelve-month district educational specialist, to be located within the office of the Castle-Kahuku complex area superintendent; and
(2) One temporary twelve-month district resource teacher, to provide support to the district educational specialist.

SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.
Report Title:
Trauma-informed Education Program; Pilot Project; Appropriation

Description:
Requires DOE to establish a three-year pilot program for the development and implementation of a trauma-informed education program in the Castle-Kahuku and Kailua-Kalaheo complex areas, based on the Nanakuli-Waianae complex area trauma-informed education programs and report to the legislature. Appropriates funds. Takes effect on 7/1/2050. (HD1)

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