

MAR 0 6 2020

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH,
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES, AND DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC
SAFETY TO ADOPT POLICIES AND PROGRAMS THAT SUPPORT TRAUMA-
RESPONSIVE PRACTICES AND THAT TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE
PRINCIPLES OF EARLY CHILDHOOD BRAIN DEVELOPMENT AND ADVERSE
CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES.

1 WHEREAS, adverse childhood experiences are traumatic
2 experiences that may have a profound effect on a child's
3 developing brain and body and result in poor health during the
4 person's adulthood; and

5
6 WHEREAS, adverse childhood experiences include physical,
7 emotional, and sexual abuse; physical and emotional neglect; and
8 household dysfunction, including domestic violence, separation
9 or divorce, substance abuse, untreated mental illness, or
10 incarceration of a household member; and

11
12 WHEREAS, strong, frequent, or prolonged stress in childhood
13 caused by adverse childhood experiences can become toxic stress,
14 affecting the development of a child's fundamental brain
15 architecture and stress response systems; and

16
17 WHEREAS, adverse childhood experience studies have found a
18 strong correlation between the number of adverse childhood
19 experiences and a person's risk for disease and negative health
20 behaviors, including suicide attempts, cancer, ischemic heart
21 disease, diabetes, smoking, substance abuse, depression,
22 obesity, unplanned pregnancy, workplace absenteeism, lower
23 educational achievement, and lower wages; and

24
25 WHEREAS, the life expectancy of a person with six or more
26 adverse childhood experiences is twenty years shorter than the
27 life expectancy of a person with no adverse childhood
28 experiences; and

29
30 WHEREAS, the emerging science and research on toxic stress
31 and adverse childhood experiences have uncovered evidence of a
32 growing public health crisis for the State, with implications



1 for the State's educational, juvenile justice, criminal justice,
2 public health, public safety, labor, and commerce systems; and
3

4 WHEREAS, it is more effective and less costly to positively
5 influence the architecture of a young child's developing brain
6 than to attempt to correct poor learning, health, and behaviors
7 later in life; and
8

9 WHEREAS, the thirty-two-year Kauai resiliency study
10 demonstrates that having protective factors within the
11 individual, family, and community can help children overcome the
12 odds and become successful in their lives; and
13

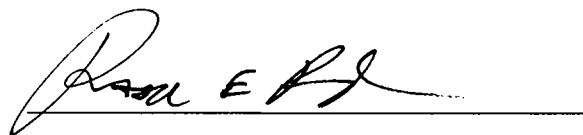
14 WHEREAS, the federal Family First Prevention Act
15 fundamentally changes the way that Title IV-E: Federal Payments
16 for Foster Care and Adoption Assistance funds can be spent and
17 now includes preventative services; and
18

19 WHEREAS, increasing trauma-informed care and services,
20 investing in prevention and resiliency programs, and developing
21 nurturing, resilient, and trauma-responsive communities can
22 reduce the impact of traumatic events and adverse childhood
23 experiences; now, therefore,
24

25 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirtieth Legislature
26 of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2020, that the
27 Department of Education, Department of Health, Department of
28 Human Services, and Department of Public Safety are requested to
29 adopt policies and programs that support trauma-responsive
30 practices and take into account the principles of early
31 childhood brain development and adverse childhood experiences to
32 give all children in Hawaii the opportunity to thrive; and
33

34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
35 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of
36 Education, Superintendent of Education, Director of Health,
37 Director of Human Services, and Director of Public Safety.
38
39
40

OFFERED BY:







S.R. NO. 88

DKL

~~ASAC~~ with 

