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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO TRAUMA-INFORMED EDUCATION.

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

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

12           The legislature further finds that trauma-informed  
13 education shifts the mindset of schools from discipline-oriented  
14 to relationship-oriented and from exclusionary practices to  
15 inclusionary practices, which can help reduce suspension rates.  
16 Trauma-informed education also creates a compassionate school  
17 culture, which has a positive impact on the child and engages



1 families and communities. Trauma-informed education further  
2 promotes social and emotional learning in schools and focuses on  
3 providing resources for students, rather than negative  
4 consequences, such as suspensions and expulsions. The  
5 legislature also finds that trauma-informed education changes  
6 the culture of the school, creates social connectiveness,  
7 provides concrete support in times of need, teaches social and  
8 emotional competence, and promotes resilience, attachment and  
9 belonging, capability, and self-empowerment.

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

15 The legislature also finds that the windward district,  
16 which includes the Castle, Kailua, and Kalaheo complex areas,  
17 created the Compassionate Koolaupoko Coalition, which includes  
18 numerous stakeholders who are currently working to bring  
19 trauma-informed education to the district. A few schools in the  
20 district have already been trained in trauma-informed education.



1           The legislature acknowledges that the COVID-19 pandemic has  
2 negatively impacted children and families in a multitude of  
3 ways, such as food and housing insecurities, due to  
4 unemployment. Distance learning has also made it difficult for  
5 students and families to access existing education resources and  
6 necessary support systems.

7           The purpose of this Act is to require the department of  
8 education to establish a three-year pilot program to develop a  
9 trauma-informed education program in the Castle, Kailua, and  
10 Kalaheo complex areas, based on the Nanakuli-Waianae complex  
11 area's trauma-informed education program and to build upon the  
12 work already done by the Compassionate Koolaupoko Coalition, and  
13 to appropriate funds for this purpose.

14           SECTION 2. (a) The department of education shall  
15 establish a three-year pilot program for the development and  
16 implementation of a trauma-informed education program in the  
17 Castle, Kailua, and Kalaheo complex areas based on the  
18 Nanakuli-Waianae complex area trauma-informed education program.  
19 The goal of the pilot program shall be to replicate the results  
20 of the Nanakuli-Waianae complex area trauma-informed education  
21 program throughout all schools in the Castle, Kailua, and



1 Kalaheo complex areas, including elementary, intermediate, and  
2 high schools, and pre-kindergarten programs that are part of the  
3 elementary school. The pilot program shall terminate on  
4 June 30, 2024.

5 (b) The department of education shall submit a report to  
6 the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening  
7 of the regular session of 2024. The report shall include:

- 8 (1) The department's progress in implementing the pilot  
9 program in the Castle, Kailua, and Kalaheo complex  
10 areas, and if applicable, any additional time and  
11 resources necessary to fully implement the pilot  
12 program;
- 13 (2) The results of the pilot program and the methodology  
14 used in determining those results;
- 15 (3) Whether the required trauma-informed education program  
16 should be terminated, extended, or revised and the  
17 feasibility of expanding the pilot program to other  
18 complex areas;
- 19 (4) A projected cost estimate to fully implement the pilot  
20 program throughout department of education public  
21 schools, projected costs to maintain the program for



1 another ten years, and the means to finance the  
2 program;

3 (5) Any proposed legislation; and

4 (6) Any other relevant information.

5 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
6 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so  
7 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2021-2022 and  
8 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal  
9 year 2022-2023 for the three-year pilot program established  
10 pursuant to this Act, including for training purposes, and shall  
11 be used for the salary and benefit of one temporary twelve-month  
12 district educational specialist, to be located within the office  
13 of the Castle-Kahuku complex area superintendent.

14 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department  
15 of education for the purposes of this Act.

16 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2051.



**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, Kailua, and Kalaheo complex areas, based on the Nanakuli-Waianae complex area trauma-informed education programs and report to the legislature. Appropriates funds. Effective 7/1/2051. (SD1)

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

