
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A TASK FORCE TO STUDY AND MAKE
RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING SCHOOL SAFETY.

1 WHEREAS, the Legislature finds that schools should be
2 places of safety and security for children of all ages; and
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4 WHEREAS, the tragic 2012 school shooting in Newtown,
5 Connecticut, highlights the need to re-evaluate safety
6 procedures currently in place; and
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8 WHEREAS, although the doors to the school automatically
9 locked once classes began and identification was demanded of
10 visitors, the perpetrator, a stranger to the school, was able to
11 force his way into the school, where he killed twenty children
12 and six adults; and
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14 WHEREAS, according to witnesses, school staff attempted to
15 protect students by locking classroom doors, hiding them in
16 closets, or barricading them in other rooms; and
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18 WHEREAS, in the wake of that and similar tragedies, the
19 State of Hawaii should examine ways to increase school security;
20 and
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22 WHEREAS, due to such tragedies, a number of Hawaii public
23 school teachers have requested that they have the capability to
24 lock classroom doors from the inside of a classroom, without the
25 need to open the doors; and
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27 WHEREAS, while the crimes committed at the Newtown,
28 Connecticut school shooting were particularly heinous,
29 statistics show that it is more likely that such violent acts at
30 schools tend to be perpetrated by students or individuals who
31 are already attending or working within a school; and
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1 WHEREAS, such incidents can be prevented in part through,
2 among other factors, building respect within schools, and
3 addressing student needs; and
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5 WHEREAS, the Department of Education has a Safety Committee
6 comprised of its Superintendents, whose members meet quarterly
7 to review and discuss safety-related issues; and
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9 WHEREAS, public schools in Hawaii also have school-level
10 Safety Committees, established through the Department of
11 Education's internal policies, that are designed to meet
12 quarterly, discuss safety-related issues such as injuries,
13 drills, and emergency measures, and provide minutes of their
14 meetings to the Department's Safety, Security, and Emergency
15 Preparedness Branch; and
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17 WHEREAS, unlike other States, Hawaii has a statewide public
18 education system, which is the tenth largest public school
19 system in the nation; and
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21 WHEREAS, unlike Hawaii, large education systems in some
22 other jurisdictions have their own police forces; and
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24 WHEREAS, due to the uniqueness of Hawaii's school system,
25 cooperation between the Department of Education and county law
26 enforcement officers is crucial to the promotion of school
27 safety; now, therefore,
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29 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
30 Twenty-seventh Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
31 Session of 2013, the Senate concurring, that the Department of
32 Education is requested to establish a Task Force that will study
33 and make recommendations on the enhancement of safety in all
34 Hawaii schools; and
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36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, more specifically, the Task
37 Force is requested to study and make determinations regarding:
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- 39 (1) The effectiveness of current school safety measures
40 such as lockdowns and emergency drills;
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- 42 (2) Verification on whether school safety measures are
43 continuing to improve;
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- 1 (3) The need for the appropriation of funds toward
2 promoting school safety, with a focus on the funding
3 of the professional development of law enforcement
4 officers for the purpose of instructing them on crime
5 prevention within schools;
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- 7 (4) The propriety of amending relevant law to allow the
8 installation of locking mechanisms that safely lock a
9 door from the inside of a classroom;
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- 11 (5) The feasibility of:
12 (A) Replacing locks on existing public school
13 classroom doors with mechanisms that lock from
14 inside the classroom, whenever the existing locks
15 need to be replaced due to wear and tear, damage,
16 or other related reasons; and
17 (B) Fitting any new public school classroom doors
18 with mechanisms that lock from inside the
19 classroom;
20 provided that such a feasibility analysis is requested
21 to include, among other factors, a consideration of
22 the safety needs of students, teachers, school
23 administrators, and other school employees;
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- 25 (6) Whether policies on the locking of public school
26 classroom doors should be determined by a school's
27 administrators or by the Superintendent of Education;
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- 29 (7) Whether the duties of the Department of Education's
30 Superintendents' Safety Committee and the School
31 Safety Committees should be codified in the Hawaii
32 Revised Statutes;
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- 34 (8) Whether laws should be amended in other ways to ensure
35 that preparations of schools within this State are
36 adequate in reducing student vulnerability to violent
37 crimes;
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- 39 (9) The propriety of an expedited procedure for private
40 schools to obtain school safety improvement funding
41 through the application process for grants and
42 subsidies established under chapter 42F, Hawaii
43 Revised Statutes; and
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1 (10) Any other issues relevant to school safety in Hawaii;
2 and
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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Task Force Membership is
5 requested to include at least the following:
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- 7 (1) The Superintendent of Education, or the
8 Superintendent's designee;
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- 10 (2) The Attorney General, or the Attorney General's
11 designee;
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- 13 (3) The Director of Finance, or the director's designee;
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- 15 (4) The Chair of the Senate Committee on Education;
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- 17 (5) The Chair of the Senate Committee on Public Safety,
18 Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs;
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- 20 (6) The Chair of the House Committee on Education;
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- 22 (7) The Chair of the House Committee on Public Safety;
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- 24 (8) One representative of each of the Police Departments
25 of the Counties of Kauai, Maui, and Hawaii, and the
26 City and County of Honolulu;
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- 28 (9) One representative of each of the Fire Departments of
29 the Counties of Kauai, Maui, and Hawaii, and the City
30 and County of Honolulu;
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- 32 (10) The Director of the Department of Education's Safety,
33 Security, and Emergency Preparedness Branch, or the
34 director's designee;
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- 36 (11) The Director of the Charter School Administrative
37 Office, or the director's designee;
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- 39 (12) The Executive Director of the Hawaii Association of
40 Independent Schools, or the executive director's
41 designee; and
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- 43 (13) The Superintendent of Hawaii Catholic Schools, or the
44 superintendent's designee; and



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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is requested to submit a report to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2014, containing the recommendations and determinations of the Task Force, including any proposed legislation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to be dissolved on June 30, 2014; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Board of Education, the Superintendent of Education, the Attorney General, the Director of Finance, the Chiefs of Police of the counties within the State, the Fire Chiefs of the counties within the State, the Director of the Department of Education's Safety, Security, and Emergency Preparedness Branch, the Director of the Charter School Administrative Office, the Executive Director of the Hawaii Association of Independent Schools, and the Superintendent of Hawaii Catholic Schools.

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