
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES, AND DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO CONVENE AN INTERDEPARTMENTAL WORKING GROUP TO ADDRESS THE LACK OF CONSOLIDATED, CONSISTENT HEALTH SCREENING PROGRAMS IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS FOR CHILDREN IN THE STATE.

1 WHEREAS, chronic absenteeism, poor health, and delayed or
2 limited access to health care and preventive health services
3 continue to hinder students' academic success and schools'
4 ability to meet the needs of the whole child; and
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6 WHEREAS, school based health programs support the
7 Department of Education in achieving student, school, and system
8 success by providing school health services to public school
9 children in complex areas across the State; and
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11 WHEREAS, the Department of Education works with other state
12 agencies, partnering health care and education organizations and
13 interest groups, and families to improve attendance, behavior,
14 and course marks; and
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16 WHEREAS, these improvements are achieved by a network of
17 school-community partnerships to improve access to and
18 coordinate wrap-around services and address non-school factors
19 that impede student success; and
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21 WHEREAS, through school based health and community
22 partnerships, the Departments of Health and Human Services have
23 identified the extent of services provided within each
24 department that are targeted to public school children and the
25 need to coordinate internal departmental activity and cross-
26 departmental efforts to develop sustainable school based health
27 services; and
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29 WHEREAS, vision, oral health, and behavioral health
30 services are in high demand for school-aged children; and



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WHEREAS, Hawaii has the highest prevalence of tooth decay in third grade children with seventy-one percent affected, well beyond the national average of fifty-two percent; and

WHEREAS, of high school children, twenty-nine percent have not visited a dentist in the past twelve months; and

WHEREAS, additionally, more than sixty percent of children in the State lack protective dental sealants, which are a cost effective means to prevent tooth decay; and

WHEREAS, similarly, approximately one in five children will naturally need glasses to participate fully in school, yet thirty-five percent of children have never seen an eye care professional; and

WHEREAS, one out of seven children ages two to eight years were diagnosed with a mental, behavioral, or developmental disorder, and between five and nine percent of children ages five to seventeen years have a serious emotional disturbance; and

WHEREAS, a significant gap in the current Hawaii health care system is effective awareness, diagnosis, and treatment of behavioral health conditions at all levels, including for school-aged children; and

WHEREAS, the school based health programs and services provided to public school children through a network of school-community partnerships lends an effective means to continue collaboration between health, human services, and education policymakers and health care providers to achieve sustainable, achievable, and comprehensive improvements to the environments in which community members learn, live, work, and play, so that academic and health outcomes of Hawaii's public school students can be achieved; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Thirtieth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2019, the Senate concurring, that the Department of Health, Department of Human Services, and Department of Education are



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1 requested to convene an interdepartmental working group to
2 address the lack of consolidated, consistent health screening
3 programs in public schools for children in the State; and
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5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group include the
6 following:
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- 8 (1) A representative from the Department of Health;
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- 10 (2) A representative from the Department of Human
11 Services;
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- 13 (3) A representative from the Department of Education;
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- 15 (4) A representative from Hawaii Keiki: Healthy and Ready
16 to Learn;
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- 18 (5) A representative from the Hawaii Primary Care
19 Association;
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- 21 (6) A representative from Project Vision Hawaii;
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- 23 (7) A representative from Hawaii Dental Service; and
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- 25 (8) Health care provider representatives, including but
26 not limited to pediatric primary care doctors and
27 nurses, eye care professionals, audiologists,
28 dentists, dental hygienists, and behavioral health
29 specialists; and
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31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested
32 to submit their findings and recommendations, including any
33 proposed legislation, to the Legislative Reference Bureau no
34 later than December 15, 2019; and
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36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Reference
37 Bureau is requested to submit a final report of the working
38 group's findings and recommendations, including any proposed
39 legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior
40 to the convening of the Regular Session of 2020; and
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
2 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of the
3 Legislative Reference Bureau, Director of Health, Director of
4 Human Services, Superintendent of Education, Executive Director
5 of Hawaii Keiki: Healthy and Ready to Learn, Chief Executive
6 Officer of the Hawaii Primary Care Association, Executive
7 Director of Project Vision Hawaii, President of Hawaii Dental
8 Service.

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OFFERED BY: *Debra A. Reilly*

MAR 08 2019

