
HOUSE RESOLUTION

ENCOURAGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS
TO MEET AS A WORKING GROUP FOR SEXUAL-VIOLENCE PREVENTION
IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

1 WHEREAS, sexual violence remains a serious and ongoing
2 threat to the safety and health of children and youth in Hawaii;
3 and
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5 WHEREAS, more than half of sexual-violence survivors who
6 receive services at Hawaii's sexual-assault treatment centers
7 experienced their abuse before the age of 18 years; and
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9 WHEREAS, the United States Centers for Disease Control and
10 Prevention's Hawaii Youth Risk Behavior Survey for 2013, 2015,
11 and 2017 indicated that children and youth in Hawaii experience
12 sexual violence at rates equivalent to or higher than their
13 mainland counterparts, and in some counties in Hawaii, these
14 rates are substantially higher than elsewhere in the United
15 States; and
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17 WHEREAS, the Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women
18 and Arizona State University's Office of Sex Trafficking
19 Intervention Research's 2019 report, "Sex Trafficking in Hawaii:
20 The Stories of Survivors", recommended that Hawaii adopt public-
21 school sexual-violence prevention education as a preventive
22 measure to protect students from being trafficked; and
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24 WHEREAS, the Department of Education and Board of Education
25 are committed to the tenets of Title IX and have made
26 significant investments of time and effort to develop more
27 robust systems to investigate and respond to allegations of
28 sexual assault, bullying, harassment, and other forms of sexual
29 violence in public schools; and



1 WHEREAS, the Department of Education's Hawaii Content and
2 Performance Standards III includes "Promoting Safety and
3 Preventing Violence and Unintentional Injury", which addresses
4 violence prevention as a priority risk topic; and
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6 WHEREAS, implementation of a program for sexual-violence-
7 prevention education in public schools is important to protect
8 children and youth in Hawaii and to better position the
9 Department of Education's Title IX and anti-bullying efforts to
10 succeed; and
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12 WHEREAS, prevention-oriented child-sexual-abuse prevention
13 programs for public-school students, teachers and staff, and
14 parents and guardians--known collectively as "Erin's Law" in
15 honor of an Illinois survivor of child sexual abuse--have been
16 implemented at the state and district level in 35 other states
17 and the Territory of Guam and are being considered by the
18 remaining 15 states; and
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20 WHEREAS, in October 2018, the Department of Education
21 established a working group to collaborate with other agency and
22 community stakeholders to review Hawaii public schools' current
23 prevention-oriented child-sexual-abuse programs and resources
24 and to initiate recommendations to strengthen integrated,
25 comprehensive, and sustained support to ensure the well-being of
26 Hawaii's children and youth; now, therefore,
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28 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
29 Thirtieth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of
30 2019, that the Department of Education and other agency and
31 community stakeholders are encouraged to continue to meet as a
32 working group; and
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34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that at least 20 days prior to the
35 convening of the regular sessions of 2020 and 2021, the working
36 group is requested to submit to the Legislature and Board of
37 Education a report of its progress as well as any policy and
38 resource recommendations, including any proposed legislation;
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
2 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of
3 Education and Superintendent of Education.

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