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## A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO BULLYING.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that bullying and cyber-  
2 bullying continue to plague Hawaii's youth. According to the  
3 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the 2017 Youth  
4 Risk Behavior Survey, more than twenty-two per cent of middle  
5 school students in Hawaii were victims of cyber-bullying and  
6 forty per cent were bullied on school property during the  
7 twelve-month period addressed by the survey. Additionally, more  
8 than twenty-three per cent seriously considered suicide and more  
9 than twelve per cent attempted suicide one or more times during  
10 the twelve-month period addressed by the survey.

11           According to the Centers for Disease Control and  
12 Prevention, youth who reported that they frequently bullied  
13 others and youth who reported being frequently bullied were both  
14 at an increased risk for suicide-related behavior. Youth who  
15 reported both bullying others and being bullied, known as bully-  
16 victims, had the highest risk for suicide-related behavior of  
17 any group that reported involvement in bullying.



1           The purpose of this Act is to reduce bullying in public  
2 schools by appropriating funds to train selected public middle  
3 school teachers on bullying intervention so that those teachers  
4 may provide training on bullying intervention to other public  
5 school employees in their respective schools.

6           SECTION 2. (a) During the 2020-2021 fiscal year and prior  
7 to a date established by the superintendent of education, the  
8 principal of each public middle school shall select at least one  
9 teacher from that school to attend an evidence-informed or  
10 evidence-based and culturally relevant bullying intervention  
11 training session approved by the superintendent of education.

12           (b) Each teacher that attends a bullying intervention  
13 training session pursuant to subsection (a) shall provide, prior  
14 to the end of the 2020-2021 fiscal year, training on bullying  
15 intervention to at least five other public school employees in  
16 the teacher's respective school.

17           SECTION 3. No later than twenty days prior to the  
18 convening of the regular session of 2022, the department of  
19 education shall submit a report to the legislature regarding the  
20 bullying intervention training required by section 2 of this  
21 Act. At a minimum, the report shall contain:



- 1           (1) The number of teachers that attended a bullying  
2           intervention training session pursuant to section 2(a)  
3           of this Act;
- 4           (2) The number of public school employees that received  
5           bullying intervention training pursuant to  
6           section 2(b) of this Act;
- 7           (3) Information on any observed outcomes as a result of  
8           the training, including any reduction in bullying or  
9           cyber-bullying, if any; and
- 10          (4) Recommendations regarding future training of public  
11          school teachers and other employees on bullying  
12          intervention.

13           SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general  
14 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$20,000 or so much  
15 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2020-2021 for eight  
16 bullying intervention training sessions to be attended by  
17 selected public middle school teachers and for the selected  
18 public middle school teachers to provide training on bullying  
19 intervention to other public school employees in their  
20 respective schools.



1 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of  
2 education for the purposes of this Act.

3 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2020.

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# H.B. NO. 2048

**Report Title:**

Department of Education; Bullying; Training; Teachers;  
Employees; Appropriation

**Description:**

Appropriates funds for selected public middle school teachers to attend an evidence-informed or evidence-based and culturally relevant bullying intervention training session and for those selected public middle school teachers to provide training on bullying intervention to other public school employees in their respective schools. Appropriates funds.

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