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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. Trauma-  
4 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 and addresses the whole



1 child and engages families and communities. It further promotes  
2 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 Nanakuli-  
11 Waianae complex area has incorporated trauma-informed education  
12 into its schools and, since 2015, has seen a reduction in the  
13 suspension and absenteeism rates and an increase in graduation  
14 and teacher retention rates.

15 The purpose of this Act is to require the department of  
16 education to establish a three-year pilot program to develop a  
17 trauma-informed education program in the Castle-Kahuku and  
18 Kailua-Kalaheo complex areas, based on the Nanakuli-Waianae  
19 complex area's trauma-informed education program.

20 SECTION 2. The department of education shall establish a  
21 three-year pilot program for the development and implementation



1 of a trauma-informed education program in the Castle-Kahuku and  
2 Kailua-Kalaheo complex areas based on the Nanakuli-Waianae  
3 complex area trauma-informed education program. The goal of the  
4 pilot program shall be to replicate the results of the Nanakuli-  
5 Waianae complex area trauma-informed education program  
6 throughout all schools in the Castle-Kahuku and Kailua-Kalaheo  
7 complex areas, including elementary, intermediate, and high  
8 schools, and pre-kindergarten programs that are part of the  
9 elementary school. The pilot program shall terminate on June  
10 30, 2023.

11 SECTION 3. The department of education shall submit a  
12 report to the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the  
13 convening of the regular session of 2023. The report shall  
14 include:

15 (1) The department's progress in implementing the pilot  
16 program in the Castle-Kahuku and Kailua-Kalaheo  
17 complex areas, and if applicable, any additional time  
18 and resources necessary to fully implement the pilot  
19 program;

20 (2) The results of the pilot program and the methodology  
21 used in determining those results;



1 (3) Whether the required trauma-informed education program  
2 should be terminated, extended, or revised and the  
3 feasibility of expanding the pilot program to other  
4 complex areas;

5 (4) A projected cost estimate to fully implement the pilot  
6 program throughout department of education public  
7 schools, projected costs to maintain the program for  
8 another ten years, and the means to finance the  
9 program;

10 (5) Any proposed legislation; and

11 (6) Any other relevant information.

12 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general  
13 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so  
14 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2020-2021 for  
15 the three-year pilot program established pursuant to this Act,  
16 including for training purposes, and shall be used for the  
17 salary and benefit of the following positions:

18 (1) One temporary twelve-month district educational  
19 specialist, to be located within the office of the  
20 Castle-Kahuku complex area superintendent; and



1           (2) One temporary twelve-month district resource teacher,  
2           to provide support to the district educational  
3           specialist.

4           SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



**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-Kahuku and Kailua-Kalaheo complex areas, based on the Nanakuli-Waianae complex area trauma-informed education programs and report to the legislature. Appropriates funds. Takes effect on 7/1/2050. (HD1)

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

