
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO IMPLEMENT BROWN-BAG LUNCH
SESSIONS AT MIDDLE SCHOOLS AND HIGH SCHOOLS.

1 WHEREAS, bullying in schools is a serious problem and can
2 lead to high suicide rates; and
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4 WHEREAS, the Department of Health has found Hawai'i to have
5 the highest teen suicide rate in the nation; and
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7 WHEREAS, the suicide rates of youth who are or feel
8 marginalized on the basis of race, sexuality, religion,
9 nationality, or gender identification can be even higher than
10 the teen suicide rate as a whole; and
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12 WHEREAS, students need to feel safe in order for quality
13 learning to take place; and
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15 WHEREAS, the establishment of schools as safe places goes
16 beyond the school simply as a place where students, teachers,
17 and staff are free from physical or verbal violence; and
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19 WHEREAS, one of the most valuable conditions created by
20 schools as a place of safety is their fundamental utility in
21 fostering a climate conducive to valuable, ongoing conversations
22 among students, teachers, and staff by creating a sense of
23 inclusion, belonging, and community; and
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25 WHEREAS, these ongoing conversations are a fundamental
26 prerequisite for the creation of opportunities for all students
27 to engage in complex cognitive, intrapersonal, and interpersonal
28 development; and
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30 WHEREAS, studies have shown that with guided recess time
31 and with the implementation of meaningful programs during
32 recess, reports of bullying drops and learning increases; and
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H.C.R. NO. 11

1 WHEREAS, brown-bag lunch meetings provide an informal
 2 training and learning environment to discuss a multitude of
 3 topics guided by counselors, teachers, volunteers, or guest
 4 speakers; and

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 6 WHEREAS, the attendees at the twenty-sixth annual Children
 7 and Youth Summit in 2019 identified the creation of these lunch
 8 meetings as a priority; now, therefore,

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 10 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
 11 Thirtieth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of
 12 2020, the Senate concurring, that the Department of Education
 13 implement brown-bag lunch sessions in both middle schools and
 14 high schools on at least a weekly basis to provide an informal
 15 training and learning environment to discuss a multitude of
 16 topics guided by counselors, teachers, volunteers, or guest
 17 speakers; and

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 19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that student counselors, faculty,
 20 and students are engaged in the implementation of the program
 21 and in the content choices of the program; and

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 23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education
 24 reach out to and collaborate with community-based organizations,
 25 such as those funded by Americorps and Vista, to support the
 26 implementation of this program; and

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 28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that student attendance of the
 29 program shall be voluntary; and

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 31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 32 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Chair of
 33 the Board of Education, and Superintendent of Education.

OFFERED BY:

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JAN 17 2020

