
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO IMPLEMENT SENSORY
ROOMS FOR CHILDREN DIAGNOSED WITH AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER
IN ALL SCHOOLS.

1 WHEREAS, the National Institute of Mental Health describes
2 autism spectrum disorder as a developmental disorder that
3 affects communication and behavior, and is said to be a
4 "developmental disorder" because symptoms generally appear in
5 the first two years of life; and

6
7 WHEREAS, according to the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual
8 of Mental Disorders (DSM-5), a guide created by the American
9 Psychiatric Association used to diagnose mental disorders,
10 people with autism spectrum disorder have difficulty with
11 communication and interaction with other people; restricted
12 interests and repetitive behaviors; and symptoms that hurt the
13 person's ability to function properly in school, work, and other
14 areas of life; and

15
16 WHEREAS, in 2018, the Center for Disease Control determined
17 that approximately one in fifty-nine children is diagnosed with
18 an autism spectrum disorder; and

19
20 WHEREAS, according to Easterseals, in 2014-2015, one
21 thousand six hundred children with disabilities between the ages
22 of three and eighteen who received special education services in
23 Hawaii have autism spectrum disorder; and

24
25 WHEREAS, a sensory room is a therapeutic space with a
26 variety of equipment that provides students with special needs
27 with personalized sensory input and helps the students calm and
28 focus themselves so they can be better prepared for learning and
29 interacting with others; and



1 WHEREAS, a program evaluation conducted by occupational
2 therapists in Muskegon County Northern Service Unit and students
3 at Grand Valley State University Masters of Occupational Science
4 and Therapy on the impact of sensory room activities on student
5 readiness in Muskegon County found that fifty-six percent of
6 students were more engaged in classroom activities post-sensory
7 room intervention; and

8
9 WHEREAS, installing sensory rooms in Hawaii schools will
10 help children learn to self-regulate their behaviors and improve
11 their focus, allowing them to achieve success in the classroom;
12 now, therefore,

13
14 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
15 Thirtieth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of
16 2020, that the Department of Education is requested to implement
17 sensory rooms for children diagnosed with autism spectrum
18 disorder in all schools; and

19
20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education
21 implement sensory rooms as follows and in the following order:

- 22
23 (1) In those elementary schools on the neighbor islands
24 that do not have special education classes;
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26 (2) In all other elementary schools in the State;
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28 (3) In those middle and intermediate schools on the
29 neighbor islands that do not have special education
30 classes;
31
32 (4) In all other middle and intermediate schools in the
33 State;
34
35 (5) In those high schools on the neighbor islands that do
36 not have special education classes; and
37
38 (6) In all other high schools in the State; and



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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 5
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OFFERED BY:

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