
HOUSE RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO INCREASE ACCESS TO TRAUMA-
INFORMED CARE FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS WHO EXPERIENCE
SEXUAL VIOLENCE.

1 WHEREAS, sexual violence and sexual harassment are growing
2 concerns on public school campuses; and

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4 WHEREAS, sexual violence and sexual harassment impair
5 students' ability to concentrate on educational objectives and
6 compromise students' sense of safety and overall well-being; and

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8 WHEREAS, under Title IX of the Education Amendments of
9 1972, all forms of sexual harassment and sexual violence are
10 prohibited in any education program or activity that receives
11 federal funding; and

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13 WHEREAS, according to a survey conducted by the American
14 Association of University Women, fifty-eight percent of students
15 in grades seven to twelve report experiencing sexual harassment;
16 and

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18 WHEREAS, according to the nonprofit organization Stop
19 Sexual Assault in Schools, thirty-two percent of students who
20 experienced sexual assault or sexual harassment reported not
21 wanting to go back to school after being assaulted or harassed;
22 and

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24 WHEREAS, according to the United States Department of
25 Education, nearly half of teens who experience teen dating
26 violence, including sexual violence, experience abuse on campus;
27 and

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29 WHEREAS, according to the anti-abuse organization Break the
30 Cycle, eighty percent of high school counselors feel unprepared
31 to provide trauma-informed care to students who report being
32 abused; and



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1 WHEREAS, trauma-informed care involves providing school
 2 staff and students with the skills and support necessary to
 3 manage reactions to traumatic stress and build a positive school
 4 climate; now, therefore,

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 6 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
 7 Thirtieth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of
 8 2020, that the Department of Education is urged to increase
 9 access to trauma-informed care for public school students who
 10 experience sexual violence; and

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 12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is
 13 requested to offer training in trauma-informed care to teachers,
 14 administrators, and school staff to improve reporting,
 15 preventing, and intervening in cases of sexual violence
 16 throughout the Department; and

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 18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is
 19 urged to collaborate with victim service providers that assist
 20 survivors of sexual violence in the development of school-based
 21 programs and protocols to help identify and support students who
 22 are victims of sexual violence; and

23
 24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that at least twenty days prior to
 25 the convening of the Regular Session of 2021, the Department of
 26 Education is requested to submit to the Legislature a report of
 27 its progress in implementing trauma-informed care practices
 28 throughout the Department, including any proposed legislation;
 29 and

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

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OFFERED BY:

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