
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
2 cyber-bullying continue to plague Hawaii's youth. According to
3 the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the 2017
4 Youth Risk Behavior Survey, more than twenty-two per cent of
5 middle school students in Hawaii were victims of cyber-bullying
6 and 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
16 bully-victims, had the highest risk for suicide-related behavior
17 of 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 in
8 coordination with the executive director of the state public
9 charter school commission, the principal of each public middle
10 school shall select at least one teacher from that school to
11 attend an evidence-informed or evidence-based and culturally
12 relevant bullying intervention training session approved by the
13 superintendent of education; provided that public charter school
14 teachers may also participate in these training session.

15 (b) Each teacher that attends a bullying intervention
16 training session pursuant to subsection (a) shall provide, prior
17 to the end of the 2020-2021 fiscal year, training on bullying
18 intervention to at least five other public school employees in
19 the teacher's respective school, or employees of a public
20 charter school within the same district as the teacher's
21 respective school.



1 (c) Training sessions for teachers must be held during
2 regular working hours or teachers shall be appropriately
3 compensated for their time.

4 SECTION 3. No later than twenty days prior to the
5 convening of the regular session of 2022, the department of
6 education shall submit a report to the legislature regarding the
7 bullying intervention training required by section 2 of this
8 Act. At a minimum, the report shall contain:

9 (1) The number of teachers that attended a bullying
10 intervention training session pursuant to section 2(a)
11 of this Act;

12 (2) The number of public school and public charter school
13 employees that received bullying intervention training
14 pursuant to section 2(b) of this Act;

15 (3) Information on any observed outcomes as a result of
16 the training, including any reduction in bullying or
17 cyber-bullying, if any; and

18 (4) Recommendations regarding future training of public
19 school and public charter school teachers and other
20 employees on bullying intervention.



1 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
2 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$20,000 or so much
3 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2020-2021 for eight
4 bullying intervention training sessions to be attended by
5 selected public middle school teachers and for the selected
6 public middle school teachers to provide training on bullying
7 intervention to other public school employees in their
8 respective schools; provided that public charter school teachers
9 may also participate in these training sessions.

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

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

13



Report Title:

Department of Education; Public Charter Schools; Bullying;
Training; Teachers; Employees; Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates funds for public charter school and selected public middle school teachers to attend an evidence-informed or evidence-based and culturally relevant bullying intervention training session and for public charter school and those selected public middle school teachers to provide training on bullying intervention to other public school and public charter school employees in their respective schools. (SD1)

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