

MAR 06 2020

SENATE RESOLUTION

URGING THE REDUCTION OF CHILDREN'S EXPOSURE TO ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES BY INVESTING IN PREVENTIVE HEALTH CARE AND MENTAL HEALTH WELLNESS INTERVENTIONS, INCLUDING NATIVE HAWAIIAN CULTURAL PRACTICES.

1 WHEREAS, research over the last two decades in the evolving
2 fields of neuroscience, molecular biology, public health,
3 genomics, and epigenetics reveals that a person's experiences in
4 the first few years of life can produce biological changes in
5 the human body that, in turn, influence physical, mental, and
6 spiritual health over the person's lifetime; and

7
8 WHEREAS, adverse childhood experiences are traumatic
9 experiences that occur during childhood, including physical,
10 emotional, or sexual abuse; physical or emotional neglect; and
11 dysfunction among household members, ranging from substance
12 abuse or untreated mental illness to incarceration, domestic
13 violence, or separation or divorce; and these experiences can
14 profoundly affect a child's developing brain and body and lead
15 to poor health in adulthood; and

16
17 WHEREAS, the original 1998 Centers for Disease Control-
18 Kaiser Permanente Adverse Childhood Experiences Study, which
19 surveyed approximately seventeen thousand California-based adult
20 members of the Kaiser Permanente health maintenance
21 organization, found that two-thirds of survey participants had
22 at least one adverse childhood experience and that one in six
23 survey participants had four or more adverse childhood
24 experiences; and

25
26 WHEREAS, the Adverse Childhood Experiences Study also found
27 a strong correlation between the number of adverse childhood
28 experiences and a person's risk for disease and negative health
29 behaviors; and



1 WHEREAS, researchers found that a person having four or
2 more adverse childhood experiences was 2.4 times more likely to
3 suffer a stroke, 2.2 times more likely to have ischemic heart
4 disease, twice as likely to have chronic pulmonary obstructive
5 disease, 1.9 times more likely to have a type of cancer, and 1.7
6 times more likely to have diabetes; and
7

8 WHEREAS, researchers additionally found that a person
9 having four or more adverse childhood experiences was 12.2 times
10 more likely to attempt suicide, 10.3 times more likely to use
11 injection drugs, and 7.4 times more likely to become alcoholic;
12 and
13

14 WHEREAS, the life expectancy of a person having six or more
15 adverse childhood experiences is twenty years shorter than that
16 of a person having no adverse childhood experiences; and
17

18 WHEREAS, a child's early adverse experiences literally
19 shape the physical architecture of the child's developing brain
20 and establish either a sturdy or a fragile foundation for all
21 subsequent learning, health, and behavior; and
22

23 WHEREAS, strong, frequent, or prolonged childhood stress
24 caused by adverse experiences can become toxic stress that
25 impacts the development of a child's fundamental brain
26 architecture and stress response systems; and
27

28 WHEREAS, early childhood education offers a unique window
29 of opportunity in which to prevent or heal the impacts of
30 adverse childhood experiences and the resulting toxic stress on
31 a child's brain, body, and spirit; and
32

33 WHEREAS, the emerging science and research on toxic stress
34 caused by adverse childhood experiences highlight a growing
35 public health crisis for the State, with implications for the
36 State's educational, juvenile justice, criminal justice, and
37 public health systems; and
38

39 WHEREAS, adverse childhood experiences can significantly
40 impact a child's educational success; and



1 WHEREAS, the Trauma and Learning Policy Initiative, a
2 nationally recognized collaboration between Massachusetts
3 Advocates for Children and Harvard Law School, found that
4 neurobiological, epigenetics, and physiological studies have
5 shown that traumatic experiences in childhood and adolescence
6 can diminish concentration, memory, and the organizational and
7 language abilities that students need to succeed in school,
8 thereby negatively impacting a student's academic performance,
9 classroom behavior, and ability to form relationships; and
10

11 WHEREAS, a child having four or more adverse childhood
12 experiences is forty-six times more likely to have learning or
13 emotional problems; and
14

15 WHEREAS, a woman having seven or more adverse childhood
16 experiences is 5.5 times more likely to become pregnant as a
17 teenager; and
18

19 WHEREAS, adverse childhood experiences can affect a child's
20 future contact with the criminal justice system; and
21

22 WHEREAS, a woman having three violent adverse childhood
23 experiences is 3.5 times more likely to become the victim of
24 intimate partner violence, while a man having three or more
25 violent adverse childhood experiences is 3.8 times more likely
26 to perpetuate intimate partner violence; and
27

28 WHEREAS, a critical factor in buffering children from the
29 effects of toxic stress and adverse childhood experiences is the
30 existence of supportive, stable relationships between children
31 and their families, caregivers, and other important adults in
32 their lives; and
33

34 WHEREAS, cultural practices that provide asset-based
35 approaches involving the stabilizing influence of an unrelated
36 adult can provide a child with the resilience needed to mitigate
37 a high number of adverse childhood experiences; and
38

39 WHEREAS, positively influencing the architecture of a
40 child's developing brain is more effective and less costly than
41 attempting to address a child's poor learning, health, and
42 behaviors later in life; now, therefore,



S.R. NO. 91

1 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirtieth Legislature
 2 of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2020, that the
 3 Governor is urged to help reduce children's exposure to adverse
 4 childhood experiences, help address the impacts of those
 5 experiences, and invest in preventive health care and mental
 6 health wellness interventions, including Native Hawaiian
 7 cultural practices; and

8
 9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the applicable executive branch
 10 agencies are urged to consider the principles of brain
 11 development; the intimate connection between mental, physical,
 12 and spiritual health; the concepts of toxic stress, adverse
 13 childhood experiences, and buffering relationships; and the
 14 value of early interventions, culture, and āina-based programs
 15 as important strategies to prevent and mitigate adverse
 16 childhood experiences; and

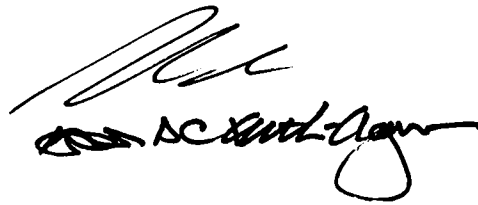
17
 18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that programs of the applicable
 19 executive branch agencies are urged to acknowledge the
 20 principles of early childhood and youth brain development and to
 21 integrate into programming, services, and professional
 22 development, to the extent possible, the concepts of connection
 23 to land; cultural and historical trauma; early adversity, toxic
 24 stress, childhood trauma, and resilience gained through
 25 protective relationships; and the fact that Native Hawaiian and
 26 other indigenous cultural practices provide a strength- and
 27 asset-based approach, in order to build community wellness and
 28 maximize children's resilience; and

29
 30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 31 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Director of Health,
 32 and Director of Human Services.

OFFERED BY:

Donna Wilhelms
DKW
 Michelle N. Sedani
 Araceli L. Somoza



A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized, cursive name that appears to be "Scott" followed by a surname that is partially obscured and difficult to decipher.