

# Hawaii Association of School Psychologists

03/10/2021

House of Representatives  
Hawaii State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

**Re: Support of Intent of House Resolution 41 and House Concurrent Resolution 52**

Aloha Representatives:

The Hawaii Association of School Psychologists (HASP) supports the intent of House Resolution 41 and its companion, House Concurrent Resolution 52. All students, irrespective of race, culture and background, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, or educational need, have a right to equitable, high quality education, including access to core curricula incorporating their cultural backgrounds and perspectives, as well as evidence-based educational practices that are delivered in an age-appropriate, developmentally appropriate, and linguistically appropriate general education classroom settings.

HASP appreciates the resolution's attention to determining the effectiveness of current anti-bullying measures, including online (cyberbullying), with the intent of "implementing new policies that focus on progressive rather than punitive punishments for students that have committed acts of bullying, cyberbullying, or harassment."

School psychologists have substantial training and preparation in data-based decision making (at the individual and systems level) and research and program evaluation. They possess the knowledge and skills required to help lead efforts related to needs assessments, establishing progress monitoring systems, evaluating and interpreting data, using data to inform future decisions, and evidence-based anti-bullying programs available to schools.

HASP therefore recommends the language of line 18 is amended to read as follows:

~~(3) Department of Transportation;~~ {(3) Hawaii Association of School Psychologists; }.

As experts in education systems, research and program evaluation, and best practices in regards to anti-bullying programs, HASP strongly believes it is better equipped to serve as a task force representative.

In closing, HASP supports the intent of the companion resolutions indicated above, and encourage they are amended to include the Hawaii Association of School Psychologists as a representative on the task force instead of the Department of Transportation because school psychologists have more appropriate training and expertise to address the intent of the resolutions

Respectfully Submitted:

Alec H Marentic  
Co-Chair, HASP Legislative Committee  
[Alec.marentic@gmail.com](mailto:Alec.marentic@gmail.com)

March 11, 2021

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Honolulu, HI 96813

Aloha,

My name is Kayla and I am a student in the Hawaii DOE system. Unfortunately, due to a class schedule conflict, I am unable to attend the hearing, but I am submitting my written testimony in support of HR41.

This resolution is especially important now, given that many schools have switched to virtual learning in light of the pandemic. This dramatic increase in screen time is leading students to be more likely to experience stress, anxiety, and cyberbullying. LIGHT, an organization aimed at detecting and removing toxic behaviors, estimated that cyberbullying among students has increased by 70% over the first few months of the pandemic.

LGBTQIA+ identifying students are disproportionately affected by bullying and minority stress. Approximately 49% of LGBTQIA+ students have reported bullying compared to 20% cisgender, heterosexual students (GLSEN). This means that LGBTQIA+ identifying students are more than two times as likely to experience bullying, harassment, and toxic, hateful behavior.

By employing a transparent, non-punitive approach to addressing bullying and harassment, we address and educate people who are committing acts of bullying. Non-punitive

measures also creates a “safety culture,” ensuring that those who witness or report concerns about harassment do not hesitate to do so due to fear of being reprimanded or ostracised.

Addressing the root of bullying shows our keiki that we value them, their safety, and their wellbeing. All students, regardless of race, gender identity or expression, religion, disability, ancestry, or sexual orientation should have the right to learn in an environment free from cyberbullying and harassment.

Thank you,

Kayla Lim-Tam

**HR-41**

Submitted on: 3/10/2021 1:45:24 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/11/2021 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Ashley Galacgac	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

The pandemic has exacerbated stressors for students. With distance learning, this resolution will help to create a safe learning environment. There are unique needs that have arisen, so convening this task force can help identify the root causes of bullying and convene experts and community to work together to address these causes. I especially want to emphasize centering the voices and presence of students in this process. The non punitive approach to anti-bullying policies is important and focus on restorative practices to bring more holistic and whole-child solutions.

HR41 is one step towards continued progress in improving the quality of education all our students deserve. Please pass this resolution.

Mahalo,

Ashley Galacgac