
HOUSE RESOLUTION

SUPPORTING THE ADVOCACY AGAINST CHILDHOOD BULLYING AND FOR
ADOLESCENT HEALTH WITHIN THE STATE OF HAWAII.

1 WHEREAS, the Hawaii Administrative Rules §8-19-2 defines
2 "Bullying" as "any written, verbal, graphic, or physical act
3 that hurts, harms, humiliates or intimidates a student . . .
4 that is sufficiently severe, persistent, or pervasive that it
5 creates an intimidating, threatening, or abusive educational
6 environment"; and
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8 WHEREAS, the State of Hawaii recognizes this commitment to
9 fostering a safe and positive learning environment in local
10 schools in HB225 HD2 SD1, requiring the Board of Education to
11 "develop a bullying prevention and response action plan"; and
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13 WHEREAS, the Hawaii Multi-Tiered System of Supports
14 framework (HMTSS) engages school teams to monitor bullying
15 prevention efforts in three areas: Prevention, Reporting, and
16 Follow-up; and
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18 WHEREAS, the Hawaii Revised Statutes §302A-1002 includes
19 provisions surrounding unreported "[b]ullying, cyberbullying,
20 and harassment" by any "who knows or has reason to believe that
21 an act has been or will be committed" to be subject to
22 "probation, suspension, demotion, and discharge of school
23 officials"; and
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25 WHEREAS, the 2021 Hawaii Youth Behavioral Risk Survey
26 reports "40% [of middle school youth] were bullied on school
27 property, 23.1% seriously considered suicide, and 12.4%
28 attempted suicide during past 12 months"; and
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30 WHEREAS, the 2019 Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System
31 (YRBSS) reports "1 in 6 high school youth in Hawaii are reported
32 to be skipping school due to concerns for their safety"; and



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2 WHEREAS, the coming-of-age film "Butter" (2022) addresses
3 the severe effects of childhood and adolescent bullying,
4 including repercussions involving declining physical and mental
5 health and suicide; and

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7 WHEREAS, the protagonist in the movie "Butter" quotes "[He]
8 did not want to die. [He] just wanted the unbearable pain to go
9 away"; and

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11 WHEREAS, prevention of negative long-term effects of
12 bullying can be alleviated from the support of parents and other
13 supportive figures, including relatives, peers, and teachers;
14 and

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16 WHEREAS, the rise of technology has increased peer
17 victimization and allowed instigators to anonymously harass
18 victims through social media, instant messaging, and online
19 communities; and

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21 WHEREAS, children who experience bullying often do not
22 report their experiences due to shame or fear, and are often
23 overt about seeking help from health providers or adults; now,
24 therefore,

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26 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
27 Thirty-first Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
28 of 2022, that the Legislature support the further development
29 and implementation of preventative safety measures against
30 childhood bullying and for the promotion of adolescent health;
31 and

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33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education shall
34 develop a bullying prevention and response action plan to inform
35 students, school employees or volunteers, and Department
36 employees of any implemented procedures; and

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38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board shall establish
39 requirements for preserving and documenting evidence of bullying
40 and harassment in the Department or Hawaii schools; and

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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board shall review and
 2 update the bullying prevention and response action plan every
 3 twenty-four months to incorporate best practices in bullying
 4 prevention, education, investigation, reporting, and resolution;
 5 and

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 7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Board, or Department as the
 8 board's designee, is requested to submit a report of its
 9 findings and recommendations, including any proposed
 10 legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior
 11 to the convening of the Regular Session of 2023; and

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 13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 14 Resolution be transmitted to the Speaker of the House, the
 15 President of the Senate, the Chairman of the House Committee on
 16 Education, the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Education,
 17 and the Chairwoman of the Department of Education.

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OFFERED BY: *RL McInerney*

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