

MAR 11 2022

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## SENATE RESOLUTION

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URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO SUPPORT DEVELOPING ADDITIONAL MENTAL WELLNESS FACILITIES FOR CHILDREN, ADOLESCENTS, AND YOUNG ADULTS, IN ADDITION TO IMPROVING THE OVERALL CONTINUUM OF THEIR MENTAL HEALTH CARE, AS IDENTIFIED IN THE RECENT UNITED STATES SURGEON GENERAL'S ADVISORY.

1 WHEREAS, there are only two inpatient psychiatric medical  
2 facilities in the State to care for children, adolescents, and  
3 young adults with serious mental health needs; and  
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5 WHEREAS, these two inpatient units are on Oahu at The  
6 Queen's Medical Center and Kahi Mohala Hospital and have limited  
7 designated bed space for children, adolescents, and young  
8 adults; and  
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10 WHEREAS, the urgent, disturbing need for additional  
11 psychiatric beds is routinely experienced by families waiting in  
12 an emergency room for hours and sometimes days with a child who  
13 is "imminently dangerous to self and others"; and  
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15 WHEREAS, although hospital beds are greatly needed,  
16 improvement of the overall continuum of care is essential for  
17 any hope of reaching and assisting the State's vulnerable  
18 populations; and  
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20 WHEREAS, the behavioral, mental health care, and treatment  
21 for children, adolescents, and young adults are distinct from  
22 those of adults, requiring specialized, well-documented, and  
23 effective approaches, plans, and treatment facilities; and  
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25 WHEREAS, helping a child includes helping the nuclear and  
26 extended family, and the entire ohana, since family members  
27 impact each other in both positive and negative ways, support  
28 each other, and benefit from the improved health of those around  
29 them; and  
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31 WHEREAS, long-term, ongoing mental health problems have  
32 challenged every facet of our country and society, having



1 touched nearly every person and resulting in generational  
2 impacts, and the situation is only getting worse; and  
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4 WHEREAS, significant treatment and equally important  
5 preventative measures should be implemented immediately, as they  
6 require long-term and steadfast commitment for success; and  
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8 WHEREAS, the United States Surgeon General issued an  
9 advisory on December 7, 2021, entitled Protecting Youth Mental  
10 Health, calling on the nation to respond to the growing mental  
11 health crisis impacting young people that has worsened with the  
12 pandemic; and  
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14 WHEREAS, the United States Surgeon General requested the  
15 following actions be taken by federal, state, and local  
16 governments:  
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- 18 (1) Address the economic and social barriers that  
19 contribute to poor mental health for young people,  
20 families, and caregivers;  
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- 22 (2) Ensure safe experiences online for children and young  
23 people;  
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- 25 (3) Ensure all children and youth have comprehensive and  
26 affordable coverage for mental health care;  
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- 28 (4) Support integration of screening and treatment into  
29 primary care;  
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- 31 (5) Provide resources and technical assistance to  
32 strengthen school-based mental health programs;  
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- 34 (6) Invest in prevention programs, such as evidence-based  
35 social and emotional learning;  
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- 37 (7) Expand the use of telehealth for mental challenges;  
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- 39 (8) Expand and support the mental health workforce;  
40
- 41 (9) Expand and strengthen suicide prevention and mental  
42 health crisis services;



(10) Improve coordination across all levels of government to address youth mental health needs;

(11) Support continued reduction in basis, discrimination, and stigma related to mental health;

(12) Support the mental health needs of youth involved in the juvenile justice system; and

(13) Support the mental health needs of youth involved in the child welfare system; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Health should make every effort to support the Surgeon General's action items; and

WHEREAS, the University of Hawai'i System and their professional schools and departments, including Law, Medicine, Social Work, Public Health, Psychology, Medical Anthropology, and Pharmacy may continue their overall efforts and enhance their workforce preparation programs; and

WHEREAS, more research is required to identify and further investigate the very complex area of acquiring and maintaining overall superior health, focusing on children, adolescents, and young adults; and

WHEREAS, when immediate needs are met and appropriate plans are identified, the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands may be in a position to support setting aside property to build a unique treatment facility for children, adolescents, and young adults; and

WHEREAS, property provided by the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands for treatment facilities will have a positive impact on the general public as they help meet the needs in caring for children, adolescents, and young adults; and

WHEREAS, lease of land for treatment facilities may be an income generating opportunity for the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands leading towards less reliance from the State; and



1 WHEREAS, this effort will support the passionate belief  
2 that it takes the community to successfully build a strong  
3 future for children, adolescents, and young adults in the State;  
4 now, therefore,

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6 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first  
7 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2022,  
8 that the Department of Health is urged to support developing  
9 additional mental wellness facilities for children, adolescents,  
10 and young adults, in addition to improving the overall continuum  
11 of their mental health care, as identified in the December 7,  
12 2021, United States Surgeon General's advisory; and

13  
14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
15 Resolution be transmitted to the United States Surgeon General,  
16 Governor, Director of Health, President of the University of  
17 Hawai'i System, Chairperson of the Hawaiian Homes Commission,  
18 Dean of the John A. Burns School of Medicine, Chair of the Board  
19 of Trustees of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, and mayor of each  
20 county.

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23 OFFERED BY:  \_\_\_\_\_

