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# HOUSE RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO ENSURE THAT EACH PUBLIC SCHOOL AND PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL IN THE STATE, FROM KINDERGARTEN THROUGH GRADE TWELVE, HAS A CERTAIN NUMBER OF MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS.

1 WHEREAS, the State is experiencing an acute mental health  
2 crisis among children and youth; and  
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4 WHEREAS, school psychologists provide direct and indirect  
5 support to evaluate and address students' intellectual  
6 development, academic success, social-emotional learning, and  
7 mental and behavioral health; and  
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9 WHEREAS, school counselors counsel students and parents,  
10 evaluate students' abilities, address learning problems, and  
11 assist students in career and personal development; and  
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13 WHEREAS, school psychologists and school counselors are  
14 crucial to supporting the mental health and well-being of  
15 students in school; and  
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17 WHEREAS, the National Association of School Psychologists  
18 recommends a ratio of one psychologist to five hundred students;  
19 and  
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21 WHEREAS, the American School Counselor Association  
22 recommends a ratio of one school counselor to two hundred fifty  
23 students; and  
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25 WHEREAS, public schools and public charter schools in the  
26 State presently do not meet the recommendations by the National  
27 Association of School Psychologists; and  
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29 WHEREAS, ensuring adequate staffing levels of mental health  
30 professionals consistent with recommended ratios will provide



1 Hawaii's keiki with critical support needed to address the  
2 ongoing mental health crisis; now, therefore,

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4 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
5 Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
6 Session of 2024, that the Department of Education is urged to  
7 ensure that each public school and public charter school in the  
8 State, from kindergarten through grade twelve, employs, or  
9 retains under contract, at least one mental health professional  
10 for every two hundred fifty students enrolled; provided that if  
11 a public school has fewer than two hundred fifty students  
12 enrolled, the school is urged to employ or retain under a  
13 contract at least one mental health professional; and

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15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that "mental health professional"  
16 under this concurrent resolution means:

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18 (1) A licensed mental health counselor, as defined in  
19 section 453D-1, Hawaii Revised Statutes;  
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21 (2) A psychologist licensed to practice psychology under  
22 chapter 465, Hawaii Revised Statutes;  
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24 (3) A person employed as a school psychologist pursuant to  
25 section 465-3(a)(3), Hawaii Revised Statutes;  
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27 (4) A social worker, as defined in section 467E-1, Hawaii  
28 Revised Statutes; or  
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30 (5) A social worker exempt from licensure pursuant to  
31 section 467E-6(2), Hawaii Revised Statutes; and  
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33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is  
34 requested to cooperate with other state agencies, as  
35 appropriate, to ensure adequate staffing levels of mental health  
36 professionals in public schools and public charter schools; and  
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38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is  
39 requested to submit a report to the Legislature no later than  
40 twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of  
41 2025, detailing the progress made toward meeting the benchmark  
42 of each public school and public charter school in the State,



1 from kindergarten through grade twelve, employing or retaining  
2 under contract, the number of mental health professionals set  
3 forth in this concurrent resolution; and

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5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
6 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of  
7 Education; Superintendent of Education; and Executive Director  
8 of the State Public Charter School Commission.

