

MAR 08 2024

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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO ADOPT A POLICY RELATING TO  
THE USE OF PREFERRED NAMES FOR STUDENTS.

1           WHEREAS, the use of an individual's name assigned at birth,  
2 rather than their preferred name, is often referred to as  
3 "deadnaming"; and

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5           WHEREAS, failing to use a student's preferred name on  
6 student records and in campus settings can undermine the  
7 emotional well-being of transgender, Indigenous, minority, and  
8 other children, leading to bullying, discrimination, violence,  
9 and loss of educational and economic opportunities; and

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11           WHEREAS, deadnaming in educational settings is a common  
12 practice, but research has found that using students' preferred  
13 names is associated with improved mental health outcomes; and

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15           WHEREAS, a 2018 study published in the *Journal of*  
16 *Adolescent Health* found that using transgender youths' preferred  
17 names in more contexts was associated with lower rates of  
18 depression, suicidal ideation, and suicidal behavior, and that  
19 the odds of each were lowest when preferred names were used in  
20 more contexts; and

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22           WHEREAS, the University of Hawaii has already adopted a  
23 policy by which any student may use a preferred name to foster  
24 an inclusive and supportive campus environment; now, therefore,

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26           BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second  
27 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2024, the  
28 House of Representatives concurring, that the Board of Education  
29 is requested to adopt a policy relating to the use of preferred  
30 names for students; and

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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education is urged  
2 to adopt a policy that:

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4 (1) Authorizes the Department of Education to implement a  
5 system by which current or former students can declare  
6 a preferred name to be used in their records where  
7 legal names are not required by law;

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9 (2) Requires the Department to update any records for  
10 current or former students to include the preferred  
11 name upon the request of the student, including but  
12 not limited to school-issued email addresses, campus  
13 identification cards, class rosters, diplomas,  
14 certificates of completion of courses, or other  
15 similar records; and

16  
17 (3) Ensures that the Department shall not charge a fee for  
18 correcting, updating, or reissuing a document or  
19 record based on the declaration of a preferred name;  
20 and

21  
22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
23 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the  
24 Board of Education and Superintendent of Education.

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OFFERED BY: 