

MAR 08 2024

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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO DISSEMINATE INFORMATION TO  
EDUCATE STUDENTS AND TEACHERS AND TO RAISE AWARENESS ABOUT  
THE SMOKING EPIDEMIC.

1           WHEREAS, the Keiki Caucus declared addressing electronic  
2 smoking devices as one of its biggest priorities for the 2023  
3 and 2024 legislative sessions; and  
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5           WHEREAS, section 8-31-1, Hawaii Administrative Rules,  
6 states "[t]he public school system strives to provide its  
7 students with a safe and secure learning environment, as well as  
8 appropriate instruction and school experiences that mutually  
9 reinforce good personal health and safety practices"; and  
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11           WHEREAS, Chapter 8-31, Hawaii Administrative Rules, is the  
12 Board of Education's "Tobacco Free School System" policy; and  
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14           WHEREAS, the Board of Education provides for counseling and  
15 rehabilitation assistance to employees who wish to stop smoking;  
16 and  
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18           WHEREAS, section 302A-102, Hawaii Revised Statutes,  
19 relating to smoking at public schools, does not prohibit vapes  
20 or "tobacco products" at public schools, but only prohibits  
21 "tobacco"; and  
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23           WHEREAS, vapes are evolved "tobacco products" derived from  
24 nicotine, the main psychoactive ingredient in tobacco; and  
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26           WHEREAS, vapes, vaporizers, vape pens, hookah pens,  
27 electronic cigarettes, e-cigars, and e-pipes are some of the  
28 many terms used to describe electronic "tobacco product"  
29 nicotine delivery systems; and  
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31           WHEREAS, Hawaii Department of Health data shows that  
32 forty-eight percent of high school students and thirty-one



1 percent of middle school students have tried using an  
2 e-cigarette; and  
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4 WHEREAS, the Hawaii Department of Health Youth Risk Survey  
5 of 2009-2017 shows that since 2015, when tobacco started to  
6 evolve into vapes or "tobacco products", there was a significant  
7 resurgence in student smokers; and  
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9 WHEREAS, Hawaii's public schools consider vapes and  
10 "tobacco products" to be contraband, and students may be  
11 suspended or expelled for possessing them on campus; and  
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13 WHEREAS, since smoking is a toxic and addictive behavior,  
14 student smokers should be counseled and not punished; and  
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16 WHEREAS, during the process of debating priorities, the  
17 Hawaii Children and Youth Summit 2022 students stated that the  
18 participants desire is to create middle school and high school  
19 programs with peer-to-peer support, therapy, and counseling to  
20 emphasize the consequences of smoking while increasing awareness  
21 about health education; now, therefore,  
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23 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second  
24 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2024, the  
25 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of  
26 Education is urged to disseminate information to educate  
27 students and teachers and to raise awareness about the smoking  
28 epidemic; and  
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30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is  
31 urged to consider that punishment such as suspension and  
32 expulsion are not effective or efficient safeguards against  
33 smoking; and  
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35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that disciplinary actions for  
36 smoking should include a conference with an administrator and  
37 parent or legal guardian and counseling on tobacco prevention  
38 and education about the adverse health effects of smoking among  
39 youths; and  
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
2 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the  
3 Board of Education and Superintendent of Education.  
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OFFERED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

  
BY REQUEST

