

MAR 08 2024

SENATE 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
33 percent of middle school students have tried using an
34 e-cigarette; and
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1 WHEREAS, the Hawaii Department of Health Youth Risk Survey
2 of 2009-2017 shows that since 2015, when tobacco started to
3 evolve into vapes or "tobacco products", there was a significant
4 resurgence in student smokers; and

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6 WHEREAS, Hawaii's public schools consider vapes and
7 "tobacco products" to be contraband, and students may be
8 suspended or expelled for possessing them on campus; and

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10 WHEREAS, since smoking is a toxic and addictive behavior,
11 student smokers should be counseled and not punished; and

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13 WHEREAS, during the process of debating priorities, the
14 Hawaii Children and Youth Summit 2022 students stated that the
15 participants desire is to create middle school and high school
16 programs with peer-to-peer support, therapy, and counseling to
17 emphasize the consequences of smoking while increasing awareness
18 about health education; now, therefore,

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20 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second
21 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2024,
22 that the Department of Education is urged to disseminate
23 information to educate students and teachers and to raise
24 awareness about the smoking epidemic; and

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26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is
27 urged to consider that punishment such as suspension and
28 expulsion are not effective or efficient safeguards against
29 smoking; and

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31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that disciplinary actions for
32 smoking should include a conference with an administrator and
33 parent or legal guardian and counseling on tobacco prevention
34 and education about the adverse health effects of smoking among
35 youths; and



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

OFFERED BY: _____


BY REQUEST

