
HOUSE CONCURRENT 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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1 WHEREAS, ensuring adequate staffing levels of mental health
2 professionals consistent with recommended ratios will provide
3 Hawaii's keiki with critical support needed to address the
4 ongoing mental health crisis; now, therefore,

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

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18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that "mental health professional"
19 under this concurrent resolution means:

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- 21 (1) A licensed mental health counselor, as defined in
- 22 section 453D-1, Hawaii Revised Statutes;
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- 24 (2) A psychologist licensed to practice psychology under
- 25 chapter 465, Hawaii Revised Statutes;
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- 27 (3) A person employed as a school psychologist pursuant to
- 28 section 465-3(a)(3), Hawaii Revised Statutes;
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- 30 (4) A social worker, as defined in section 467E-1, Hawaii
- 31 Revised Statutes; or
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- 33 (5) A social worker exempt from licensure pursuant to
- 34 section 467E-6(2), Hawaii Revised Statutes; and
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36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is
37 requested to cooperate with other state agencies, as
38 appropriate, to ensure adequate staffing levels of mental health
39 professionals in public schools and public charter schools; and

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41 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is
42 requested to submit a report to the Legislature no later than



1 twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of
2 2025, detailing the progress made toward meeting the benchmark
3 of each public school and public charter school in the State,
4 from kindergarten through grade twelve, employing or retaining
5 under contract, the number of mental health professionals set
6 forth in this concurrent resolution; and

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

