

MAR 07 2024

SENATE 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, the public schools and public charter schools in
26 the State presently do not meet the recommendations by the
27 National 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 Senate of the Thirty-second
5 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2024, the
6 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of
7 Education is urged to ensure that each public school and public
8 charter school in the State, from kindergarten through grade
9 twelve, employs, or retains under contract, at least one mental
10 health professional for every two hundred fifty students
11 enrolled; provided that if a public school has fewer than two
12 hundred fifty students enrolled the school is urged to employ or
13 retain under a contract, at least one mental health
14 professional; and

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

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

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40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is
41 requested to submit a progress report to the Legislature no
42 later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular
Session of 2025, detailing the progress made toward meeting the



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1 benchmark requiring each public school and public charter school
2 in the State, from kindergarten through grade twelve, to employ,
3 or retain under contract, the number of mental health
4 professionals set forth in this concurrent resolution; and
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6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
7 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Superintendent of
8 Education and Executive Director of the State Public Charter
9 School Commission.
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OFFERED BY: _____

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "B. S. S.", is written over a horizontal line.