

MAR 07 2025

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE OFFICE OF WELLNESS AND RESILIENCE TO DEVELOP A
REPORT TO ADDRESS THE DEVELOPMENTAL NEEDS OF CHILDREN BORN
DURING THE CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 PANDEMIC.

1 WHEREAS, the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic
2 has had profound effects on children born between the years
3 2018-2025, disrupting their social, emotional, academic, and
4 health development during their most critical early years; and
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6 WHEREAS, scientific evidence and expert testimonies
7 indicate that many children in this age group are experiencing
8 developmental delays, including challenges in communication,
9 fine motor skills, emotional regulation, and social interaction;
10 and
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12 WHEREAS, early childhood education and support during these
13 formative years are crucial for long-term academic success and
14 overall well-being, yet these children may face compounded
15 challenges as they transition into middle and high school; and
16

17 WHEREAS, children who were born and raised during the
18 COVID-19 pandemic, especially those from birth to age five, are
19 at heightened risk for academic and developmental setbacks due
20 to the unique circumstances of their upbringing, including
21 reduced social interactions, increased screen time, and
22 disrupted routines; and
23

24 WHEREAS, families across the State endured significant
25 challenges during the COVID-19 pandemic, including heightened
26 fear of contracting the virus, economic instability due to
27 inflation and loss of income, and increased food and housing
28 insecurity; and
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30 WHEREAS, caregivers have faced the additional burden of
31 adapting to online education for their children while managing
32 toxic stress within households, which has adversely affected the



1 social and emotional well-being of children from birth to age
2 five, a critical period for early childhood development; and

3
4 WHEREAS, climate crisis, such as the 2018 Kilauea eruption
5 and 2023 Maui wildfires, have further compounded the trauma for
6 children in affected areas, leading to additional challenges in
7 emotional and psychological well-being, especially for those who
8 were already vulnerable due to the COVID-19 pandemic; and

9
10 WHEREAS, trauma can have profound negative impacts on
11 students' social, emotional, and behavioral needs; and

12
13 WHEREAS, disparities in developmental outcomes have been
14 observed, disproportionately affecting children from
15 economically disadvantaged, minority, rural, and remote
16 communities, including Native Hawaiian communities; and

17
18 WHEREAS, recovery and catch-up interventions for these
19 children are essential to mitigate long-term impacts on their
20 educational and life trajectories; and

21
22 WHEREAS, educators and others who work with children have
23 also been profoundly impacted by the stressors of the COVID-19
24 pandemic, facing increased demands, and limited resources, as
25 well as their own experiences of toxic stress, leading to a
26 record number of educators leaving the profession and fewer
27 individuals entering the field; and

28
29 WHEREAS, the cascading effects of trauma within families,
30 schools, and communities have placed a significant strain on
31 community-based providers responsible for the care and
32 development of children, further challenging their ability to
33 support the social-emotional needs of children and families;
34 now, therefore,

35
36 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third
37 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2025,
38 that the Office of Wellness and Resilience is requested to
39 develop a report to address the developmental needs of children
40 born during the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic;
41 and



1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Office of Wellness and
2 Resilience is requested to include the following in its report:

- 3
4 (1) Trauma-informed care research and practices that:
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6 (A) Identify the nature of trauma and the effects of
7 acute or chronic exposure to trauma;
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9 (B) Present interventions and strategies to resist
10 re-traumatization for those impacted by trauma;
11 and
12
13 (C) Recommend cultural practices and research-
14 practiced, evidence-based interventions to
15 support children's transitions into middle
16 school, high school, and post-high school life;
17
18 (2) An outline of the existing services offered by the
19 Department of Education, Department of Health,
20 Department of Human Services, Office of Hawaiian
21 Affairs, Executive Office on Early Learning, and key
22 non-profits and community groups to address social and
23 emotional learning loss experienced during the COVID-
24 19 pandemic;
25
26 (3) A comprehensive analysis of the services available for
27 individuals and families affected by the 2023 Maui
28 wildfires;
29
30 (4) Information on existing services to support educators
31 and those who work directly with children and families
32 who may suffer from secondary traumatic stress due to
33 the COVID-19 pandemic and 2023 Maui wildfires; and
34
35 (5) Recommendations to strengthen efforts to support
36 frontline workers' self-care plans and provide
37 interventions to promote resiliency and well-being;
38 and
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40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Office of Wellness and
41 Resilience is requested to submit its report, including any

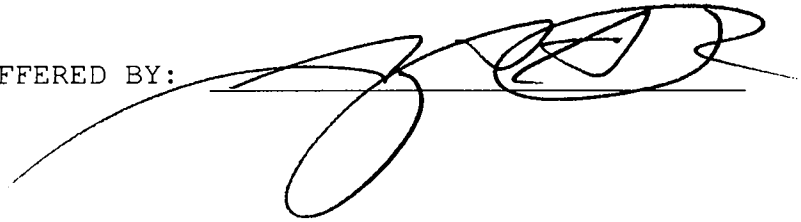


1 proposed legislation, to the Legislature by December 31, 2025;
2 and

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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
5 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor and Director of the
6 Office of Wellness and Resilience.

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OFFERED BY:

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke, positioned over a horizontal line.