

MAR 07 2025

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO CONDUCT A STUDY ON
WHETHER TEACHERS AND SCHOOL PERSONNEL SHOULD BE TRAINED IN
THE USE OF, AND BE EQUIPPED WITH, PEPPER SPRAY.

1 WHEREAS, ensuring the safety and security of students,
2 teachers, and school personnel is of paramount importance; and
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4 WHEREAS, incidents of violence and threats in schools
5 across the United States have underscored the need for proactive
6 security measures to deter potential intruders and protect
7 educators and students from harm; and
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9 WHEREAS, providing school personnel with non-lethal
10 defensive tools, such as pepper spray, may serve as a form of
11 security and empower teachers to respond effectively to
12 potential threats; and
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14 WHEREAS, other states have considered policies to allow
15 trained school personnel to carry non-lethal self-defense tools
16 as a means of protection in an emergency situation; and
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18 WHEREAS, proper training and guidelines are critical to
19 ensure the responsible use of pepper spray in school settings,
20 including clear protocols for deployment, storage, and
21 accountability; and
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23 WHEREAS, equipping teachers and school personnel with non-
24 lethal self-defense tools may deter potential intruders, empower
25 teachers to respond effectively in an emergency situation, and
26 provide a safe and secure learning environment for educational
27 communities; and
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29 WHEREAS, before any policy implementation, an assessment of
30 the potential benefits, risks, and legal implications of
31 equipping school personnel in the State with pepper spray should
32 be conducted; now, therefore,
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34 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third
35 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2025,



1 that the Department of Education is requested to conduct a study
2 on whether teachers and school personnel should be trained in
3 the use of, and equipped with, pepper spray; and
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5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study is requested to
6 include but not be limited to:
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- 8 (1) An examination of school safety data and incidents
9 involving violence of threats against Hawaii public
10 schools;
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- 12 (2) A review of policies in other states regarding the use
13 of pepper spray by school personnel;
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- 15 (3) An assessment of the potential benefits and risks
16 associated with equipping school personnel with pepper
17 spray, including health considerations and legal
18 implications;
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- 20 (4) Input from school administrators, teachers, parents,
21 students, law enforcement, and security experts; and
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- 23 (5) Recommendations on best practices for training,
24 storage, and appropriate use of pepper spray in
25 schools; and
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27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is
28 requested to submit a report of its findings and
29 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the
30 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
31 the Regular Session of 2026; and
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33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
34 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of
35 Education and Superintendent of Education.
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OFFERED BY:  

