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## HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO CREATE A STUDENT-LED WORKING GROUP TO ADDRESS THE NEED FOR ACTIVE INCLUSION OF DIVERSE IDENTITIES WITHIN AND BEYOND SEXUAL HEALTH EDUCATION, TO TEACH CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE IDEAS AROUND MUTUAL RESPECT IN RELATIONSHIPS, AND TO FIND SITES OF POTENTIAL ACTIVE INCLUSION OF THESE IDENTITIES IN SEXUAL HEALTH CURRICULA, ALL WITHIN THE FRAMING PRINCIPLES OF ALOHA KEKAHI I KEKAHI.

1           WHEREAS, an important tenant of Hawaiian thought is "aloha  
2   kekahi i kekahi", meaning to love, honor, and respect each  
3   other; to treat each other with mutual dignity and cordiality;  
4   and to engage with one another on the basis of mutual kindness,  
5   caring, and love; and

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7           WHEREAS, because of the State's limited size and resources,  
8   it is vital to respect and celebrate the diverse racial, ethnic,  
9   gender, sexual, disability, and other identities that exist in  
10  the State; and

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12           WHEREAS, students at the 2021 Hawaii Youth Summit  
13   specifically requested action to ensure that sexual health  
14   education curriculum includes accurate and affirmative  
15   representations of diverse gender and other identities; and

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17           WHEREAS, general notions of inclusivity have not succeeded  
18   at creating active inclusivity that fosters space for all  
19   students to feel seen and represented in school and in personal  
20   relationships; and

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22           WHEREAS, current educational materials and practices do not  
23   reflect the range of gender expressions and sexual identities  
24   that exist, which can lead to mental health issues, bullying,



1 and discrimination for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and  
2 queer (LGBTQ+) students; and

3  
4 WHEREAS, teachers who do not understand diverse gender and  
5 sexual orientations can have lasting negative impacts on  
6 individual children's mental health as well as contribute to an  
7 overall culture in schools that is hostile to students who may  
8 not fit within a cis-hetero conception of personal identity and  
9 affections; and

10  
11 WHEREAS, talking about gender and sexuality in a medically  
12 accurate, open, and age appropriate way promotes greater health  
13 and safety; and

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15 WHEREAS, educating young people about consent is an  
16 extremely important component of protecting them from danger and  
17 empowering them to make healthy decisions; and

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19 WHEREAS, LGBTQ+ Native Hawaiian youth experience compound  
20 marginalization of their sexual identity, gender expression, and  
21 cultural identity as a result of ongoing histories of  
22 colonization and cultural repression; and

23  
24 WHEREAS, Native Hawaiian cultural practice exceeds the  
25 heteronormative gender binary and provides us with pathways to  
26 decolonizing relationships and building mutual respect and aloha  
27 kekahi i kekahi; and

28  
29 WHEREAS, children and their families deserve an inviting  
30 and comprehensive approach to sexual health education that  
31 centers the development of respectful and kind relationships;  
32 and

33  
34 WHEREAS, students have a clear understanding of the issues  
35 and problems in their schooling and deserve to have a voice in  
36 crafting their own futures and those of generations to come;  
37 now, therefore,

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39 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
40 Thirty-first Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
41 of 2022, the Senate concurring, that the Department of Education  
42 is requested to form a student-led working group to address the



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1 need for active inclusion of diverse identities within and  
2 beyond sexual health education, to teach culturally responsive  
3 ideas around mutual respect in relationships, and to find sites  
4 of potential active inclusion of these identities in sexual  
5 health curricula, all within the framing principles of aloha  
6 kekahi i kekahi; and

7  
8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group consist of:

- 9  
10 (1) Student advocates from across the islands, including  
11 representatives from:  
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13 (A) Gay-Straight Alliance Clubs;  
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15 (B) The O'ahu Teen Council;  
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17 (C) TeenLink Hawai'i; and  
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19 (D) Other student organizations doing work on peer-  
20 to-peer sexual health and relationship education;  
21  
22 (2) Cultural experts, including but not limited to those  
23 working with the Office of Hawaiian Education;  
24  
25 (3) Experts in sexual health education; and  
26  
27 (4) Teachers who are invested in the development of  
28 comprehensive curriculum and programs; and  
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30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested  
31 to submit recommendations to the Department of Education for  
32 teacher training, student curriculum, and any other materials or  
33 programs the working group deems necessary to fulfill its goal;  
34 and  
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36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that working group members and the  
37 Department of Education are urged to ensure that the concept of  
38 aloha kekahi i kekahi, particularly as it pertains to diverse  
39 sexual identities and gender expressions, is fully realized and  
40 responsibly shared with the State's keiki; and  
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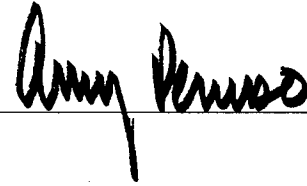


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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
2 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor,  
3 Chairperson of the Board of Education, and Interim  
4 Superintendent of Education.

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OFFERED BY: \_\_\_\_\_



MAR 11 2022

