

Resolution

No. 24-190

URGING THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO PRIORITIZE HEALTHY RELATIONSHIP AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS USING LOCAL SERVICE PROVIDERS

WHEREAS, research shows that domestic violence is a public health issue, with survivors experiencing long-term health complications from physical and mental health trauma; and

WHEREAS, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, most first-time victimization occurs before 25 years old, with many victims experiencing violence before they turn 18; and

WHEREAS, early childhood trauma in the home or community places children at a higher risk for domestic and sexual violence during their lifetime and puts them at risk for repeated victimization as an adult; and

WHEREAS, the National Scientific Council on the Developing Child found “that persistent adversity early in life can overload the body’s organs and interconnecting systems, leading to long-term consequences such as cardiovascular disease, obesity, diabetes, and a range of mental health problems”; and

WHEREAS, parents or caregivers may not feel equipped or comfortable to have conversations with their children about relationships and domestic violence; and

WHEREAS, there are service providers in Hawai‘i who provide advocacy, education, and support individuals experiencing domestic violence that are ready and available to provide this type of education, but are having trouble accessing classrooms; and

WHEREAS, service providers have found that they need to rely on requests from students inviting them to present on domestic violence education rather than the request coming from the State Department of Education; and

Resolution No. 24-190


WHEREAS, in 2021, the State Department of Health recommended the DOE implement Sexual Violence Prevention Program education presentations and rallies in intermediate and high schools, along with a Sexual Violence Prevention resource webpage for administration, faculty, students, families, and the greater community, to help prevent domestic and sexual violence in youth; and

WHEREAS, the DOE prioritizing healthy relationship and domestic violence education in intermediate and high schools, and providing age-appropriate education for fourth and fifth grade students will help to prevent domestic violence and protect the health of Hawai'i's youth; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the County of Maui:

1. That it urges the State Department of Education to prioritize healthy relationship and domestic violence education in schools using local service providers; and
2. That certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to Sanoë Ka'aihue, Executive Director, Women Helping Women; Monique Ibarra, MSW, Chief Executive Officer, Domestic Violence Action Center; Angelina Mercado, Executive Director, Hawai'i State Coalition Against Domestic Violence; Kenneth S. Fink, M.D., Director, Department of Health, State of Hawai'i; Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent, Department of Education, State of Hawai'i; Rebecca Winkie, Complex Area Superintendent, Hāna-Lahainaluna-Lāna'i-Molokai District, Department of Education, State of Hawai'i; Desiree Sides, Complex Area Superintendent, Baldwin-Kekaulike-Kulanihako'i-Maui District, Department of Education, State of Hawai'i; Roy Takumi, Chairperson, Board of Education, State of Hawai'i; the County of Maui's delegation to the State Legislature; the Honorable Josh Green, M.D., Governor, State of Hawai'i; and the Honorable Richard T. Bissen, Jr., Mayor, County of Maui.

INTRODUCED BY:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shane M. Sinenci", written over a horizontal line.

SHANE M. SINENCI