



The Senate

STATE CAPITOL
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

May 26, 2022

The Honorable David Y. Ige
Governor, State of Hawaii
Executive Chambers
Hawai'i State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Aloha Governor Ige:

The news reports of yesterday's school shooting in Uvalde, Texas were tragic, senseless, and unacceptable. And while elected officials on the national level continue to debate the need for gun control measures or the status of mental health programs, Hawaii can proactively do better to ensure Hawaii's school children can learn in a safe environment.

I ask that Hawaii's Department of Education (DOE) and Department of Public Safety (DPS) immediately work on a plan for the beginning of the next 2022-2023 school year to assign law enforcement officers to serve alongside with existing security personnel at DOE schools and programs. This critical initiative will require your endorsement and directive for the DOE to work with the Sheriff Division of DPS for sheriffs to spend a portion of their work day at each state prekindergarten program and every DOE elementary, middle/intermediate, and high school during school campus hours and while students are on campus grounds.

During this past legislative session, the DOE submitted testimony explaining that there are no security staff assigned to any of the DOE's elementary schools or pre-kindergarten programs. However, School Resource Officers and School Safety and Security Officers/School Security Attendants are assigned to Kauai, Maui, and Hawaii county high schools and middle/intermediate schools. The City and County of Honolulu high schools and middle/intermediate schools do not have School Resource Officers and instead have School Safety and Security Officers/School Security Attendants. However, principal and school staff in my district have shared with me that they are not properly trained during a lockdown scenario.

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In light of the world we live in today, it is crucial that State sheriffs work with existing security officers and attendants on all DOE school campuses because as law enforcement officers they are trained to assess, identify, and take protective action when potential dangers occur by the presence of individuals who are not authorized to be on school campuses.

I look forward to working with you, DOE, DPS, and my legislative colleagues to prioritize a plan of assigning dedicated State sheriffs to prepare and protect teachers, staff, and students for any potential active-shooter scenario.

Sincerely,



Senator Kurt Fevella
State of Hawaii, District 19
Minority Leader/ Minority Floor Leader

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