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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HEALTH.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that American teens are  
2 facing a major health crisis. Each year, a million American  
3 teens become pregnant. Approximately fifty per cent of all  
4 teenagers age fourteen to eighteen have engaged in sexual  
5 intercourse, causing unintended pregnancies in many of these  
6 teens, one of the many consequences of their actions, by the  
7 time they reach adulthood.

8           Additionally, the rates of sexually transmitted diseases  
9 (STD) such as gonorrhea are on the rise for the first time in  
10 thirteen years, and other STDs such as chlamydia and syphilis  
11 continue to significantly impact our teen population. In fact,  
12 one in four new cases involving STDs occur in adolescents.

13           In July 2001, then Surgeon General David Satcher released  
14 his long-awaited report, "Call to Action to Promote Sexual  
15 Health and Responsible Sexual Behavior." Citing research  
16 findings on the effectiveness of various program interventions,  
17 the Satcher report stressed the importance of information on sex  
18 that balances encouragement of abstinence for young people with



1 ensuring "awareness of optimal protection from sexually  
2 transmitted diseases and unintended pregnancy, for those who are  
3 sexually active."

4 "Healthy People 2010," set of official goals for improved  
5 public health drafted by the United States Department of Health  
6 and Human Services' also emphasizes the need to reduce teenage  
7 pregnancy and sexually transmitted disease rates, in part,  
8 through comprehensive sex information programs.

9 The state department of health, to help Hawaii youth make  
10 decisions that promote healthy behaviors, informs youth that  
11 abstinence from sexual intercourse is the surest and most  
12 responsible way to prevent unintended pregnancies and STDs.

13 The purpose of this Act is to ensure that any instruction,  
14 counseling, or information relating to sex shall be medically  
15 accurate, factually based, and objective.

16 SECTION 2. Chapter 321, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
17 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated  
18 and to read as follows:

19 "§321- \_\_\_\_\_ **Medically accurate sex information.** (a) Any  
20 recipient of state or federal funding that provides information  
21 or offers programs regarding:

22 (1) Sex;



1       (2) Family planning;

2       (3) Pregnancy counseling; or

3       (4) Sexually transmitted diseases,

4 shall provide medically accurate, factual information that is  
5 age-appropriate and that includes information on both abstinence  
6 and contraception for the prevention of pregnancy and sexually  
7 transmitted diseases, including human immunodeficiency virus and  
8 acquired immune deficiency syndrome.

9       (b) For the purposes of this section:

10       "Factual information" includes but is not limited to  
11 medical, psychiatric, psychological, empirical, and statistical  
12 statements.

13       "Medically accurate" means verified or supported by  
14 research conducted in compliance with scientific methods and  
15 published in peer-reviewed journals where appropriate, and  
16 recognized as accurate and objective by professional  
17 organizations and agencies with expertise in the relevant field,  
18 such as the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
19 and the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists."

20       SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

21       SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.



HB 2060 HD1

**Report Title:**

Medically Accurate Sex Information

**Description:**

Requires recipients of state or federal funding that provide information or offer programs regarding sex information to provide medically accurate, factual information that is age-appropriate and includes information on both abstinence and contraception. (HB2060 HD1)

