
A BILL FOR AN ACT

MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND TREATMENT
EDUCATION.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that abuse of illicit
2 substances continues to be a serious issue among Hawaii's youth.
3 University of Hawaii researchers have linked substance abuse
4 among teens with lower levels of academic performance and
5 motivation, and with an increase in interpersonal violence. In
6 2003, the department of health released the findings of a study
7 documenting adolescent drug use trends in Hawaii over the last
8 fifteen years, entitled "Hawaii Student Alcohol, Tobacco, And
9 Other Drug Use Study (1987-2003): Hawaii Adolescent Prevention
10 And Treatment Needs Assessment" (DOH Study). The DOH Study
11 found that seven per cent, or more than 6,500 public school
12 students between grades six and twelve, require treatment for
13 substance abuse. It recommends strengthening substance abuse
14 prevention in schools and notes that a comprehensive substance
15 abuse prevention program must begin no later than the fourth
16 grade and should continue through high school.



1 The DOH Study surveyed grades six through twelve about the
2 use of six substances: alcohol, marijuana, stimulants,
3 depressants, hallucinogens, and club drugs. It found that
4 across all grade levels, the incidence of alcohol use is higher,
5 and its onset is earlier, than for all other substances. It
6 reports that alcohol and cigarettes have high initiation rates
7 clearly beginning by the age of nine or younger. The
8 recommended age for alcohol and tobacco education is age nine,
9 with education efforts continually reinforced in the years that
10 follow.

11 The onset of illicit drug use occurs as early as age nine,
12 but most typically between the ages of thirteen and sixteen.
13 The use of marijuana, however, is begun by the age of nine or
14 ten, with, on average, eight per cent of the students reporting
15 use of marijuana by the time they were age twelve, and fifteen
16 per cent of the upper grade students reporting use by the time
17 they were age thirteen. Thus, efforts to educate about the
18 dangers of marijuana use should begin by age nine, with the
19 strongest efforts occurring in the eighth grade.

20 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds to
21 establish a statewide substance abuse and treatment education
22 program in public middle schools.



1 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
 2 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$, or so
 3 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2006-2007, for
 4 the department of health, in coordination with the department of
 5 education, to establish a statewide substance abuse and
 6 treatment education program in public middle schools.

7 SECTION 3. The sum appropriated shall be expended by the
 8 department of health for the purposes of this Act.

9 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2006.

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INTRODUCED BY:

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HB 2084

Report Title:

Appropriation; Substance Abuse and Treatment Education

Description:

Appropriates funds for DOH, in coordination with DOE, to establish a substance abuse and treatment education program in public middle schools.

