
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. Unintended pregnancies, in nearly two-thirds of
6 these teens, are one of the many consequences of their actions.

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

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



1 transmitted diseases and unintended pregnancy, for those who are
2 sexually active."

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

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

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

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

18 "§321- **Medically accurate sex information.** (a) With
19 the exception of those entities that are required to exclusively
20 provide abstinence-only curriculum or programs, any recipient of
21 state funding that provides information or offers programs
22 regarding:



1 (1) Sex;
2 (2) Family planning;
3 (3) Pregnancy counseling; or
4 (4) Sexually transmitted diseases,
5 shall provide medically accurate, factual information that is
6 age-appropriate and that includes information on both abstinence
7 and contraception for the prevention of pregnancy and sexually
8 transmitted diseases, including human immunodeficiency virus and
9 acquired immune deficiency syndrome.

10 (b) For the purposes of this section:

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

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

21 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

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



Report Title:

Medically Accurate Sex Information

SB 2139.
SD 1
HD 1

Description:

Requires recipients of state 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.

(SB2139 HD1)

