

MAR 13 2008

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO EVALUATE THE NECESSITY OF
MANDATORY HEALTH EDUCATION THAT INCLUDES MEDICALLY ACCURATE
SEX EDUCATION IN INTERMEDIATE AND MIDDLE SCHOOLS.

1 WHEREAS, health education, including sex education for
2 fifth graders, is an important part of a student's education in
3 the elementary schools; and

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5 WHEREAS, one semester of health education is a graduation
6 requirement for students in public high schools and is usually
7 offered in the ninth or tenth grades; and

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9 WHEREAS, health education in intermediate and middle
10 schools, however, is increasingly becoming an elective instead
11 of a mandatory course because schools are placing much greater
12 emphasis on attaining Adequate Yearly Progress under the federal
13 No Child Left Behind Act; and

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15 WHEREAS, sexual health and responsibility, mental and
16 emotional health, personal health and wellness, and promoting
17 safety and preventing violence and unintentional injury are
18 topics that should be covered under the Hawaii Content and
19 Performance Standards III; and

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21 WHEREAS, the goal of standards-based school health
22 education is to help adolescents develop the essential skills
23 necessary to adopt and maintain healthy behaviors; and

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25 WHEREAS, this goal cannot be met if health education is
26 considered an elective course of study; and

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28 WHEREAS, teen pregnancy, abstinence, birth control,
29 sexually transmitted diseases, HIV/AIDS, and how to deal with
30 peer pressure are topics that are covered under the health
31 standards; and

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33 WHEREAS, students need to receive these kinds of
34 information early and have it reinforced during their formative



1 and transitional years, from elementary to intermediate or
2 middle school to high school; now, therefore,

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4 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth
5 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2008,
6 that the Board of Education is requested to evaluate the
7 necessity of mandatory health education, which would include
8 medically accurate sex education in the intermediate and middle
9 schools; and

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11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education is
12 requested to submit a report on its findings and
13 recommendations, including information on implementation for a
14 mandatory course of study in health education in intermediate
15 and middle schools, to the Legislature no later than twenty days
16 prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2009; and

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18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
19 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of
20 Education and the Superintendent of Education.

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OFFERED BY: 

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