

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 02 2007

RE: S.B. No. 1117
S.D. 1

Honorable Colleen Hanabusa
President of the Senate
Twenty-Fourth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2007
State of Hawaii

Madam:

Your Committee on Health, to which was referred S.B. No. 1117
entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to ensure that teenagers are
equipped with accurate information and knowledge to enable them to
make informed decisions regarding their sexual health.

This measure accomplishes this purpose by requiring all
entities that receive state funding for sexual health education
purposes to provide medically accurate, factual information that
is age-appropriate and that includes education on both abstinence
and contraception for the prevention of pregnancy and sexually
transmitted diseases, including HIV.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure
from the Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women; the ACLU;
Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies Coalition of Hawai'i; Planned
Parenthood of Hawaii; the League of Women Voters of Hawaii; the
Community Alliance on Prisons; the American Association of
University Women; the Democratic Party of Hawai'i; Hawaii Youth
Services Network; and four individuals. Your Committee received
testimony in opposition to this measure from the Pro-Family
Hawaii, Hawaii Right to Life, the Mary Jane Program of Catholic
Charities Hawai'i, Hawaii Family Forum, the Try Wait! Program of
Catholic Charities Hawaii, and five individuals. The Department
of the Attorney General submitted comments on this measure.



Your Committee finds that providing teenagers with medically accurate, factual information that is age-appropriate and that includes education on both abstinence and contraception for the prevention of pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV, will reduce the number of unintended teenage pregnancies in Hawaii. In addition, empowering teenagers to make informed decisions is the most effective safeguard to the contraction of often life threatening sexually transmitted diseases.

Your Committee further finds that this measure is not intended to negatively impact those entities that receive state funding for non-sexual education programs.

Accordingly, your Committee amended this measure by clarifying that it only applies to entities that receive state funding for sexual health education.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Health that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 1117, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 1117, S.D. 1, and be placed on the calendar for Third Reading.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Health,



DAVID Y. IGE, Chair



