

Date of Hearing: February 11, 2009

Committee: House Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Patricia Hamamoto, Superintendent

Title: H.B. No. 329, H.D. 1, Relating to Health

Purpose: Requires the State to reject all Title V federal funding for mandated abstinence-only-until-marriage programs.

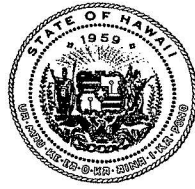
Department's Position: The Department of Education (Department) supports H.B. No. 329, H.D. 1. The Department currently provides comprehensive abstinence-based sex education through the Hawaii Content and Performance Standards for Health Education. The Bill supports current Board of Education Policy 2110 – Abstinence-Based Education which states:

“In order to help students make decisions that promote healthy behaviors, the Department of Education shall instruct students that abstention from sexual intercourse is the surest and most responsible way to prevent unintended pregnancies, sexually transmitted diseases such as HIV/AIDS, and consequent emotional distress.” The abstinence-based education program shall:

- a. support abstention from sexual intercourse and provide skill development to continue abstention;
- b. help youth who have had sexual intercourse to abstain from further sexual intercourse until an appropriate time; and
- c. provide youth with information on and skill development in

the use of protective devices and methods for the purpose of preventing sexually transmitted diseases and pregnancy.”

The Department does not currently accept any federal Title V (Social Security Act of 1996) funding for abstinence-only programs.



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P.O. Box 3378
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:
File:

House Committee on Education

H.B. 0329, H.D. 1, Relating to Health

**Testimony of Chiyome Leinaala Fukino, M.D.
Director of Health**

February 11, 2009

1 **Department's Position:** The Department of Health (DOH) opposes this measure to reject programs and
2 federal funding for abstinence-only-until-marriage education programs.

3 **Fiscal Implications:** None

4 **Purpose and Justification:** The purpose of this bill is to amend Hawai'i Revised Statute, Chapter §302
5 and 321, by creating two new sections that will require the State to reject programs and funding for
6 abstinence-only-until-marriage programs. The Title V Abstinence-Only Program integrates sexual
7 abstinence until marriage, as the expected standard with healthy youth development activities that are
8 provided in an out-of-school setting. Abstinence-only education promotes and provides age-appropriate
9 information about sexual health and provides accurate and factual information on sexually transmitted
10 diseases and HIV/AIDS as reasons to be abstinent. Healthy youth development activities include
11 character and relationship building approaches to equip young people with the skills needed to make
12 healthy decisions and safe choices. This bill is not necessary because abstinence-only audiences have
13 access to State-funded programs and resources such as family planning and other teen pregnancy
14 prevention counseling that do provide comprehensive contraceptive information. Further, the
15 Department of Education's abstinence-based policy already provides for comprehensive reproductive

1 health education in the public schools. Program materials are reviewed by DOH on a regular basis and
2 inaccurate information would be corrected at that time.

3 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

PLANNED PARENTHOOD® OF HAWAII

1350 S. King Street • Suite 309 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96814 • Phone: (808) 589-1156 • Fax: (808) 589-1404

February 11, 2009

Testimony in Support: HB 329

To: Representative Roy Takumi, Chair, and Representative Lyla Berg, Vice Chair, and Members of the House Committee on Education and Representative Karl Rhoads, Chair, and Representative Kyle Yamashita, Vice Chair, and Members of the House Committee on Labor and Public Employment

From: Katie Reardon, Vice President of Government & Public Affairs and Sonia Blackiston, Director of Education, Planned Parenthood of Hawaii

Re: Testimony in Support of HB 329, HD 1

I thank you for allowing me the opportunity to testify today in support of HB 329, HD 1, rejecting federal Title V funding that mandates “abstinence-only” sexual health education. Because we find that “abstinence-only” programs fail Hawaii’s youth, Planned Parenthood fully support this bill.

I. HB 329 Rejects “Abstinence-Only” Mandates

HB 329 HD1, requires the State of Hawaii to reject any federal Title V funding that requires an “abstinence-only” sexual health education curriculum. Currently, Title V defines acceptable “abstinence-only” education as one that “... teaches abstinence from sexual activity outside marriage as the expected standard for all school-age children;...teaches that abstinence from sexual activity is the only certain way to avoid out-of-wedlock pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases, and other associated health problems...”¹ This definition excludes the provision of information regarding contraceptives or any other means of preventing the transmission of sexually transmitted infections (STI’s), including HIV. In fact, grant applications under Title V prohibit outright the promotion of condoms and other contraceptives. According to Sexuality Information and Education Council of the United States (SIECUS), Federal “abstinence-only” funding spent in Hawaii in 2007, to both the State and to private organizations, amounted to over \$1 million.²

II. Hawaii’s Teens Need Effective Sexual Health Education

Hawaii has one of the lowest rates of teens reporting sexual intercourse. Yet, of those having sex, only 54% are using condoms. That’s the lowest rate of condom use among sexually active teens in the country.³ As a result, we see high rates of teen pregnancy and STI’s. Hawaii has one of the highest rates of teen pregnancy in the nation.⁴ Nationally,

¹ US. Social Security Act §510(b)(2)

² Sexuality Information and Education Council of the United States (SIECUS), <http://www.siecus.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=Page.viewPage&pageId=671&grandparentID=478&parentID=487>.

³ Eaton *et al.* Youth risk behavior surveillance, United States 2007. *Morbidity & Mortality Weekly Report, Surveillance Summaries 2008*; 57(SS-4):1-136.

⁴ Guttmacher Institute, *Contraception Counts: Hawaii*, www.guttmacher.org/pubs/state_data/states/hawaii.html

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(A Maui United Way Agency)

gonorrhea rates are on the rise and other STI's, such as Chlamydia and syphilis, continue to significantly impact the young population. In fact, one in four new STI's occurs in adolescents.⁵ And in Hawaii, a 2004 study found that youth aged 15-24 bore the highest burden, experiencing 67% of all Chlamydia infections.⁶ Hawaii has the nation's 6th highest rate of Chlamydia infection.⁷ Clearly, "abstinence-only" sexual health education is failing our teens.

III. "Abstinence-Only" Education Is Ineffective

A federally funded national study has shown that "abstinence-only" programs are ineffective. This study found that teens who participate in these programs report the same rate of sexual activity than those who don't and also report the same age of first sexual activity, about 14 years old.⁸ Furthermore, reliable research shows that students who pledge to remain abstinent report significantly higher rates of other sexual activities, including oral and anal sex. These teens that do have sexual intercourse are one third less likely to use condoms or other forms of contraceptives and are one third less likely to seek medical care.⁹

As of August 2008, 25 States have rejected Title V. SIECUS has reported that 80% of these states did so because the risk of providing inaccurate and harmful sex education to their youth far outweighed the need for federal dollars.¹⁰ The cost to the State of Hawaii is high. Now is a time when we are seeing financial hardship at every turn, especially in our health and human service providers. Potentially increasing rates of sexually transmitted disease and teen pregnancies puts a heavy and unnecessary strain on those resources.

IV. Conclusion

We ask that Hawaii become the 26th state that says no Title V and to "abstinence-only" sexual health education. We promote sex education that, in addition to teaching abstinence, educates young people about prevention of STI's, including HIV, and contraceptives to prevent and reduce teen pregnancy, so that when they do have sex, they do so safely and make responsible choices. By passing this bill, as lawmakers you are supporting our children and teens and putting their health and their lives first. We ask you to pass HB 329 HD1. Thank you for this opportunity to testify today.

⁵ American Social Health Association, "STD Statistics", www.ashastd.org

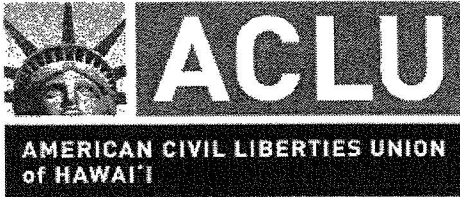
⁶ Hawaii Department of Health. "Case Rate of Reported Cases of Chlamydia, Hawai'i and US, 1986-2004." <http://hawaii.gov/health/healthy-lifestyles/std-aids/data-statistics/figures/stats-chlamydia.pps> .

⁷ Id.

⁸ Christopher Trenholm, et. al., "Impacts of Four Title V, Section 510 Abstinence Education Programs: Final Report," (Trenton, NJ: Mathematica Policy Research, Inc., April 2007), <www.mathematicampr.com/publications/pdfs/impactabstinence.pdf>.

⁹ Peter Bearman and Hanah Brückner, "Promising the Future: Virginity Pledges and the Transition to First Intercourse," *American Journal of Sociology* 106.4 (2001): 859-912. See also, Peter Bearman and Hanah Brückner, "After the promise: The STD consequences of adolescent virginity pledges," *Journal of Adolescent Health* 36.4 (2005): 271-278.

¹⁰ SIECUS, *Fact Sheet: We're Outta Here: Twenty Five States Withdraw from Title V Abstinence-Only-Until Marriage Funding Program*, August 2008, http://www.siecus.org/_data/global/images/25%20States%20Out%2010%208.pdf.



BY EMAIL: EDNTestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov

Committee: Committee on Education and Committee and Labor and Public Employment
Hearing Date/Time: Wednesday, February 11, 2009, 2:00 p.m.
Place: Room 309
Re: Testimony of the ACLU of Hawaii in Support of HB 329, HD1, Relating to Health

Dear Chair Takumi and Members of the Committee on Education and Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee on Labor and Public Employment:

The American Civil Liberties Union of Hawaii (“ACLU of Hawaii”) writes in support of HB 329, HD1, which seeks to require the State to reject all Title V federal funding for mandated abstinence-only-until-marriage programs.

The ACLU of Hawaii applauds this Committee for considering this bill. Hawaii (and our federal government) should stop spending money on programs that don’t work. Abstinence-only is a failed policy, and is contrary to what most parents and teens want or need. Numerous studies have concluded that abstinence-only programs are ineffective.¹ Further, abstinence-only programs censor healthcare professionals, requiring them to withhold information about contraceptives that teens need to protect themselves.² Moreover, they teach gender stereotypes, provide inaccurate information, discriminate against lesbian and gay teens, and in some cases promote religion in violation of the Constitution.³ Hawaii’s young adults deserve better.

¹ Sexuality Information & Education Council of the United States (SEICUS), *What the Research Says*, October 2007, available at: <http://www.seicus.org> (click on “policy quick facts”); see also *Impacts of Four Title V, Section 510 Abstinence Education Programs*, Princeton: Mathematica Policy Research, Inc., April 2007; Hannah Bruckner Ph.D. & Peter Bearman Ph.D., *After the promise: the STD consequences of adolescent virginity pledges*, *Journal of Adolescent Health*, 36 (2005) 271-278.

² See House Committee on Oversight and Reform, *Domestic Abstinence-Only Programs: Assessing the Evidence*, April 2008, <http://oversight.house.gov/story.asp?ID=1888>.

³ See Sexuality Information & Education Council of the United States (SEICUS), *Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Questioning (LGBTQ) Youth*, available at: <http://www.seicus.org> (click on “policy quick facts”). See also, Danielle LeClair, *Let’s Talk About Sex Honestly: Why Federal Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage-Education Programs Discriminate Against Girls, Are Bad Public Policy, and Should be Overturned*, 21 *Wis. Women’s L.J.* 291 (2006).

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Hon. Rep. Takumi, Chair, HLT Committee, and Hon. Rep. Rhoads, LAB Committee,
and Members Thereof
February 11, 2009
Page 2 of 3

Almost half of the states have already rejected Title V federal abstinence-only-until-marriage funds.⁴

While financially strapped states might be expected to want their share, many have doubts that the program does much (if any) good, and they are frustrated by chronic uncertainty that it will even be kept in existence. Further, this is not “free” money: states have to contribute \$3.00 for every \$4.00 in federal funds as a condition of receiving the funds; rejecting Title V funds would allow states to spend these resources on other, more effective, medically accurate programs.

Most Americans oppose abstinence-only education.

Polls consistently show that *eighty-five percent* of Americans support programs that teach about both abstinence and contraceptives.⁵ In fact, an ever-increasing number of states are rejecting abstinence-only funding under the Title V program, recognizing that the program is not in the best interest of their young people.

Abstinence-only programs are ineffective.

Empirical research demonstrates that these programs are ineffective and that we should spend our limited resources more wisely. A study commissioned by Congress evaluated several federally funded programs and found that teens who participated in them were just as likely to have sex as teens who did not participate.⁶ In April 2008, the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform held a hearing to examine abstinence-only programs.⁷ Many speakers, particularly those from the American Public Health Association, the American Academy of

⁴ Sexuality Information & Education Council of the United States (SEICUS), *We're Outta Here: 25 states withdraw from crumbling Title V abstinence-only-until-marriage programs*, September 2008, available at: <http://www.seicus.org> (click on “policy quick facts”).

⁵ National Public Radio, Kaiser Family Foundation, and Harvard University’s Kennedy School of Government, *Sex Education in America*, January 2004. Seventy percent of Americans oppose the use of federal funds for abstinence-only-until-marriage programs that prohibit teaching about the use of condoms and contraception for the prevention of unintended pregnancies and sexually transmitted infections (“STIs”). Advocates for Youth and SIECUS, “Americans Oppose Abstinence-Only Education Censoring Information on Contraception,” 1999.

⁶ *Impacts of Four Title V, Section 510 Abstinence Education Programs*, Princeton: Mathematica Policy Research, Inc., April 2007.

⁷ House Committee on Oversight and Reform, *Domestic Abstinence-Only Programs: Assessing the Evidence*, April 2008, available at <http://oversight.house.gov/story.asp?ID=1888>.

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Hon. Rep. Takumi, Chair, HLT Committee, and Hon. Rep. Rhoads, LAB Committee,
and Members Thereof
February 11, 2009
Page 3 of 3

Pediatrics, and the Mailman School of Public Health at Columbia University, testified that federal funding of abstinence-only programs should end.⁸

Where local communities choose to offer young people instruction and guidance about human sexuality, abstinence *should* be an important component of that educational program. However, federally funded programs focusing exclusively on abstinence are not only contrary to good public health policy, they also raise serious civil liberties concerns. Hawaii ought not to spend money on programs that don't work, censor important information, reinforce gender stereotypes, provide inaccurate and misleading information, promote religion in the classroom, serve a narrow ideological agenda, and jeopardize the well-being of young people.

The mission of the ACLU of Hawaii is to protect the fundamental freedoms enshrined in the U.S. and State Constitutions. The ACLU of Hawaii fulfills this through legislative, litigation, and public education programs statewide. The ACLU of Hawaii is a non-partisan and private non-profit organization that provides its services at no cost to the public and does not accept government funds. The ACLU of Hawaii has been serving Hawaii for over 40 years.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Laurie A. Temple
Staff Attorney
ACLU of Hawaii

⁸ *Id.*

HAWAII YOUTH SERVICES NETWORK

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Alan Shinn, President

Judith F. Clark, Executive Director

Acadia Hawaii Residential Treatment
Center (Formerly Children's
Comprehensive Services

Adolescent Services Program, Kaiser
Permanente Medical Care System

Aloha Pride Center

American Civil Liberties Union of Hawaii

Assistive Technology Resource Ctrs. of HI
Bay Clinic, Inc.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Honolulu

Big Island Substance Abuse Council

Blueprint for Change

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Catholic Charities Hawaii

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Child and Family Service

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Hale Kipa, Inc.

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Hawaii Behavioral Health

Hawaii Foster Parent Association

Hawaii Student Television

Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies Coalition

Hina Mauka Teen Care

Kahi Mohala Behavioral Health

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KEY (Kualoa-Heeia Ecumenical Youth)
Project

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The Maui Farm, Inc.

Maui Youth and Family Services

Palama Settlement

P.A.R.E.N.T.S., Inc.

Parents and Children Together (PACT)

Planned Parenthood of Hawaii

Salvation Army Family Intervention Svcs.

Salvation Army Family Treatment Svcs.

Sex Abuse Treatment Center

Susannah Wesley Community Center

Turning Point for Families

Waikiki Health Center

Women Helping Women

YouthVision

YWCA of Kauai

February 10, 2009

To: Representative Roy Takumi, Chair
And members of the Committee on Education

Testimony on HB 329 HD1 Relating to Health

Hawaii Youth Services Network, a statewide coalition of youth-serving organizations, strongly supports HB 329 HD1 Relating to Health.

Abstinence-only until marriage programs that they are ineffective in preventing teen pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections. Evaluations that meet all standards for scientific research demonstrate that youth that receive abstinence-only education experience sexual intercourse at the same rates as other youth. In addition, when these youth have sex, they are less likely to use protection such as condoms and thus are at greater risk of unplanned pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections.

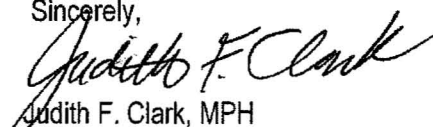
Hawaii's young people deserve to have opportunities to participate in programs that promote abstinence as a healthy choice and also provide vital information about protection from pregnancy and STIs for young people who choose to become sexually active. Comprehensive, evidence-based programs promote abstinence as a healthy lifestyle choice and also address ways that students that are sexually active can protect themselves.

Half of high school seniors in Hawaii have been sexually active and 95% of Americans today have sex before marriage. The needs of these youth cannot be met with ineffective abstinence-only programs.

Federal abstinence-only funds require a local match of three dollars for every four of federal money. This is a waste of scarce funding that could be used in more effective programs that have been demonstrated to work.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Judith F. Clark, MPH
Executive Director

DATE: February 9, 2009

TO: Representative Roy Takumi, Chair,
Representative Lyla Berg, Vice- Chair;
Members of the Committee on Finance

FROM: Betty Sestak, Public Policy Chair,
American Association of University Women, Hawaii Division

House Committee on Education
Room 309
February 11, 2009 2 PM

RE: HB 329 Relating to Health

We are testifying in support of HB 329 which rejects all Federal Title V funding that mandates "Abstinence Only" sex education

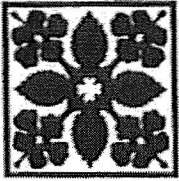
My name is Betty Sestak, RN, MPH, CRC, LMHC and I am the public policy chairperson for the state division of the AAUW that has a membership of over 300 concerned women who feel strongly about this issue. We are in strong support of this bill to reject federal funding for abstinence only sex education programs

HB 329, and it's companion Senate bill SB778, asks that the State of Hawaii reject all federal funding under Title V that mandates "abstinence-only" sex education be provided to our children and teens. Because we are committed to protecting the health and safety of our young people, we support the passage of this bill. Title V federal funding currently imposes a mandate that programs receiving funding provide sex education that promotes abstinence until marriage as the only means of preventing pregnancy and STIs. Such education does not provide even basic information about contraceptives, sexually transmitted disease, and HIV.

As a result, we see high rates of teen pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases. **Hawaii has one of the highest rates of teen pregnancy in the nation.** Nationally, gonorrhea rates are on the rise and other STDs such as chlamydia and syphilis continue to significantly impact the young population. In fact, one in four new STDs occur in adolescents. "Abstinence-only" sex education fails the youth of Hawaii. Our teens who chose to be sexually active must have the right information to keep themselves healthy and safe. Furthermore, reality requires us to acknowledge the experience of non-consensual and coercive sexual activity faced by our teens. Ensuring that Hawaii's youth receives comprehensive and accurate sexual health education will not only reduce our rates of sexually transmitted diseases and teen pregnancy, but it will empower our youth with the necessary tools they need to keep themselves safe and healthy.

We are in strong support of HB 329. Thank you on behalf of the Windward Branch, and state division of AAUW for the opportunity to testify and to support this bill.

Betty Sestak
391-9390



Hawai'i Women's Political Caucus

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A State Chapter of the
National Women's
Political Caucus

February 9, 2009

TO: Rep. Roy M. Takumi, Chair
Rep. Lyla B. Berg,, Vice Chair and
Members of the House Committee on Education

Rep. Karl Rhoads, Chair
Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Vice Chair and
Members of the House Committee on Labor & Public Employment

FROM: Faye Kennedy, President, Hawai'i Women's Political Caucus

RE: HB 329 HD1 Relating to Health
(Wednesday, February 11, 2009 at 2:00pm in Room 309)

POSITION: STRONG SUPPORT with AMENDMENT

Good afternoon, Chair Takumi, Vice Chair Berg and members of the House Committee on Education; and Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Yamashita and members of the House Committee on Labor & Public Employment. I am Faye Kennedy representing the Hawai'i Women's Political Caucus and submitting testimony in strong support of HB 329 HD1 which requires the State to reject all Title V federal funding for mandated abstinence-only-until marriage programs.

I would ask the Committee to amend the HD1 to return the effective date back to July 1, 2009 instead of July 1, 2020 to "encourage further discussion." We can talk this to death, but and in 2020 be in the same place. The time to act on this measure is now.

Title V federal funding currently imposes a mandate that programs receiving funding provide sex education that promotes abstinence until marriage as the only means of preventing pregnancy and STIs. Such "education" does NOT provide even basic information about contraceptives, sexually transmitted diseases, and HIV.

Evidence shows that sexuality education that stresses the importance of waiting to have sex while providing accurate, age-appropriate, and complete information about how to use contraceptives effectively to prevent pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) can help teens make healthy and responsible life decisions. Yet there is currently no federal program dedicated to supporting this approach. Instead, since 1996, the federal government has funneled more than a billion dollars into abstinence-only-until-marriage programming, even in the face of clear evidence that these programs do not work.

The Hawai'i Women's Political Caucus was established in 1981 and is a multi-partisan organization committed to increasing women's participation in the political process and increasing their representation in elected and appointed office. HWPC also supports male candidates committed to its goals. HWPC is dedicated to equality in employment, stopping all violence against women, and improving the health and well-being of women and families. Reproductive freedom is one of our most fundamental issues. The HWPC is a state chapter of the National Women's Political Caucus.

We urge your Committee to pass this important and long overdue measure with an amendment to return the effective date to July 1, 2009. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in strong support of this measure.



A JOINT LEGISLATIVE EFFORT

E-Mail to: EDNTestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov
Regarding: House Committee on EDN
Hearing on: February 11, 2009 @2:00 p.m. #309

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Date: February 9, 2009

To: House Committee on Education
Rep. Roy Takumi, Chair
Rep. Lyla Berg, Vice Chair

From: Dennis Arakaki
Executive Director
Hawaii Family Forum / Hawaii Catholic Conference

Re: Opposition to HB 329 HD1 Relating to Health

Honorable Chair and members of the House Committee on Education, I am Dennis Arakaki, **representing both the Hawaii Family Forum and the Roman Catholic Church in the State of Hawaii.**

Hawaii Family Forum is a non-profit, pro-family education organization committed to preserving and strengthening families in Hawaii. The Roman Catholic Church in Hawaii, under the leadership of Bishop Larry Silva, represents over 220,000 Catholics in Hawaii.

Our organizations oppose this measure believing it to be an unwise course of action.

As you already know, the current BOE policy (#2110) is abstinence-based and many Hawaii students have had the benefit of the highly successful, federally-funded abstinence program offered by our community partner, Catholic Charities, called Try Wait.

Health professionals agree that abstinence is the single most healthy choice. But, to remain abstinent, teens need to be encouraged and equipped with medically and socially accurate information on the consequences of sexual promiscuity. They also need to be taught skills on how to remain abstinent. Catholic Charities "Try Wait" program does just that.

With all the difficulties facing public schools in Hawaii, we believe it would be terrible public policy to remove funding from a program that encourages our young adults to remain abstinent until marriage. Please oppose HB 329 HD1.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

February 10, 2009

TO: House Committee on Education

FROM: Melinda Wood, private citizen

SUBJECT: In Support of HB 329

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB 329 Relating to Health. This bill is vital to protect the health and wellbeing of Hawaii's youth so they can grow up to become fully participating members of our community and our economy.

The state DOE has focused on abstinence-only sex education for the past several years with the result that Hawaii teens have one of the highest pregnancy rates in the US as well as the sixth highest rate of Chlamydia in the country. Few would argue that abstinence is the best way to prevent teen pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases, but once teens do decide to become sexually active, they absolutely must have access to medically accurate and compassionate information that will help them avoid pregnancy and disease. Hawaii's teen pregnancy and infection rates indicate that failure to provide this information is in fact causing harm to many of our youth.

Comprehensive sexuality education includes abstinence as one part of healthy sexuality. At the same time, it provides medically accurate information on the efficacy of proper condom use, unlike abstinence-only programs, which give incorrect information about condom use. Consequently, our teens, having been subjected to abstinence-only sex education, have the absolute lowest rate of condom use in the US. These are not statistics that we should be proud of—indeed, our leadership should be ashamed of supporting the sham of abstinence-only sexuality education. I highly recommend that the Hawaii House of Representatives reject any further funding for these programs. Should you wish to discuss this further with me, you may call me at 945-0135. I look forward to a positive outcome on this matter.

berg1-Liz

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 10, 2009 12:36 PM
To: EDNtestimony
Cc: thirr33@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB329 on 2/11/2009 2:00:00 PM

Testimony for EDN-LAB 2/11/2009 2:00:00 PM HB329

Conference room: 309
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Arvid Tadao Youngquist
Organization: The Mestizo Association (since 1982)
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: thirr33@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/10/2009

Comments:
House EDN-HLT Committees
Chairs Roy M. Takumi & Ryan I. Yamane
Vice Chairs Lyla B. Berg, Ph.D.
Scott Y. Nishimoto, Esq.
Right Honorable Members of the House
Education/Health Committees

This is a repeat testimony in support of HB 329 and HB 330. My previous testimony should be on file with the bills prior to their amendments.

The two measures will improve the State of Hawaii as a Healthy State in that they will address the shortcoming in Comprehensive Sexuality Health Education and broaden the accessibility of reproductive information/service in Relating to Health.

For the last eight years, and before that during another eight years of President Ronald Reagan's administration, access of reproductive choices to women and students have been restricted.

Recommend that HB 329 HD1 and HB 330 HD1 be reported out with minimal changes. Perhaps additional comments can be reflected in the Reports rather than in actual amendments. If there are needs for further refinement, Finance & Conference will be still available for that very purpose.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit renewed testimony in support of HB 329 HD1 and HB 330 HD1.

"Peace be with you".
(1 of 16,588 local voices)

berg1-Liz

From: judith anderson [gr8olbroad@hotmail.com]
Sent: Monday, February 09, 2009 7:24 PM
To: EDNtestimony
Subject: HB329, Testimony in support, with amendment to effective date AND HB329, HD1, in support

Dear Chairs Takumi and Rhoads, Vice Chairs Berg and Yamashita and members of the Joint House Committees on Education and Labor & Public Employment,

My name is Judith Anderson, and I wish to submit testimony in support of both of the above bills.

Re HB 329, HD1, I strongly urge you to support this bill. Given our current government, I hope there will be no such strings attached to federal funding now. However, should some funding still mandate abstinence-only programs, it is necessary to reject it. There is no logical, medical, scientific or sensible reason to limit information to abstinence-only. It has long been proved, if it had to be, that those most in need of information and aid in preventing disease and unwanted pregnancy are unlikely to be abstinent. Common sense rarely wins a battle with hormones. To ignore the huge amount of information and medication and equipment to accomplish safer sex is not to educate or aid those in need of such information and equipment, but to promote a narrow religious view in the guise of education.

We have a pragmatic president who says he wants programs that work, not just programs that promote a given dogma. Let us pass pragmatic laws that will help our society and its members, not propagandize them. And let us make them permanent, to July 1, 2090, at least, not just for the next 9 years so those who would keep our children ignorant can have another shot at repealing or neutering them.

Re HB 330, HD1, this, too, follows the same basic thought as the bill above. If we are going to have sex education to promote the health and well-being of our children, it must be complete, unbiased and accurate. It is education, not religion or philosophy or an attempt to pretend one can bring about some kind of utopia in which young people will do the 'right thing' at all times if we just keep them ignorant of any other possibilities. The notion of two virgins attempting on their wedding night to figure out how to accomplish a fulfilling and rewarding sexual relationship for life is not simply ludicrous, but frightening. There must be education, there must be situations in which young people can learn that the only right and wrong about sex is that both parties must be willing and able to agree that any proposed activity is appealing and safe. They must understand how their bodies and hormones and emotions act and respond and intertwine to produce a relationship that adds to and strengthens all of their bonds, and by the time they do marry, they should have the confidence and knowledge to make the sexual part of that marriage a positive, joyful, strengthening bond. This cannot be done with incomplete, inaccurate and disapproving so-called 'sex education.'

Judith Anderson
2421 Ala Wai Blvd.
Honolulu HI 96815

Rep. Roy M. Takumi
Committee on Education
Rep. Karl Rhoads
Committee on Labor and Public Employment

House Bill Number 329, HD1
Hearing on Wednesday February 11, 2009 at 2:00pm
House Conference Rm 309

My name is Adriana DeMarco and I am representing the Masters in Social Work program at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. I am testifying for House Bill 329 in which implements within the state of Hawai'i, the rejection to all title V federal funding for mandated abstinence based programs, thus allowing comprehensive sex education to be taught to Hawai'i's youth. As an active social service provider who has worked with homeless youth both in the state of California and Hawai'i for the past several years, I have seen countless numbers of young women and men effected by a lack of sex educational programs that are originally developed to protect our youth from premature pregnancies as well as the spread of STDs, HIV, and AIDS. Therefore I have seen first hand that without these types of programs, and without the ability to provide younger generations with contraceptives, such things as pregnancy amongst young women who are not financially, let alone emotionally, prepared to take care of a child will continue to happen often resulting in the child being taken away from a mother who is "ill fit" and placed in a system that can potentially cause much physiological as well as emotional damage, sometimes with life long implications. I have also seen first hand young men and women who partake in sexual activity without the proper education to protect themselves from disease, wake up one day only to receive a positive HIV test result. Therefore, it is impertinent that we teach our youth about how to protect themselves from such risks and how to prevent the spread of such risks, as well as making these options readily available to the youth we educate. I ask you, what is the point of providing sexual education without being able to offer solutions to the very things we educate our younger generations to protect themselves from? To educate youth about sex is to provide youth with the resources needed to carry out the comprehensive knowledge they gain. Furthermore, to believe that adolescence will not partake in sexual activity just because they wear a "promise ring" or are pressured to devote their youth to staying abstinence does not mean that these youth could not possibly end up in situations where they are tempted, where their impulsivity takes the best of them, and where they partake in a sexual act they so adamantly told themselves they wouldn't do. Being an adolescent is an extremely hard, emotional, and confusing time in ones life where one is trying to figure out who they are, where they are going, and who they want to become. I've seen it amongst my adolescent clients and I've experienced it first hand myself as a teenage girl, and trust me when I say the teenage mind is in constant flux. Therefore, would it not be better for adolescence in the situation above to have access to a condom while getting caught up in "the heat of the moment" or access the morning after pill when a young girl realizes she made a mistake? Regret may be felt, but to prohibit a young persons' option of righting a wrong would be a far more regretful thing then allowing a teenager to protect themselves from potential risks that could result in the end as a regret they would

be carrying for the rest of their lives. Therefore, I am in favor of rejecting all title V federal money so we can provide comprehensive sexual education for our youth, provide our youth with resources necessary to protect themselves, and overall improve the education, quality of life, and opportunities of our state's future generations.

Adriana DeMarco
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