

JAN 21 2011

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO EDUCATION.

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

1 SECTION 1. The peer education program was established in
2 1988 to address teen health issues such as pregnancy, sexually
3 transmitted diseases, substance abuse, violence, and suicide.
4 The department of education has assumed the lead in the program
5 by establishing broad-based, systemic, adolescent health
6 prevention programs in the State's secondary schools. The
7 services provided by the peer education program have become an
8 essential component in our public school system and support the
9 implementation of Hawaii content and performance standards for
10 health education and the comprehensive student support system.
11 In so doing, the peer education program attempts to educate
12 teens on critical health issues and provides support to students
13 who are at risk or in crisis, thus diminishing the cost and
14 services needed for future adult intervention efforts.
15 Moreover, student peer educators become lifelong advocates for
16 healthy living, and the students they service become more aware
17 of critical health issues and make better choices.



1 The peer education program has recently expanded to provide
2 training on signs of suicide and teen suicide prevention
3 support. This support is crucial, given the fact that Hawaii
4 has one of the highest teen suicide rates in the country. The
5 peer education program has also incorporated important teen
6 sexual assault support services. However, at the same time,
7 funding for the peer education program has been reduced by
8 approximately \$140,000 for the 2010-2011 fiscal year. This
9 funding had provided for a resource teacher to oversee, plan,
10 manage, and support the peer education program at twenty-one
11 schools. Since this resource teacher position was cut,
12 administrators and staff from other programs within the
13 department of education have stepped in to fulfill those duties,
14 but their support is limited because of their primary duties and
15 responsibilities in other programs.

16 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds to restore
17 funding for one resource teacher to provide support to the
18 department of education's peer education program during the
19 2011-2012 and 2012-2013 school years.

20 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
21 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$140,000 or so much
22 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2011-2012 and the



1 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
 2 2012-2013 to restore funding for one resource teacher to provide
 3 support to the department of education's peer education program
 4 during the 2011-2012 and 2012-2013 school years.

5 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
 6 of education for the purposes of this Act.

7 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2011.
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Report Title:

Keiki Caucus; Peer Education Program; Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates funds to restore funding for one resource teacher to provide support to the department of education's peer education program during the 2011-2012 and 2012-2013 school years.

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