

SB922



**STATE OF HAWAII
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

P. O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

Senate Committees on Health and Education
Hearing: Friday, February 4, 2011
2:45 p.m., Conference Rm. 225

Testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of SB922
Relating to Health: Medically Accurate Sexuality Health Education

Chairs Green & Tokuda, Vice-Chairs Nishihara & Kidani and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for allowing me to testify in my capacity as a member of the Hawaii State Board of Education (BOE); I testify in strong support of SB922.

The 2009 data collected from CDC-funded survey conducted in Hawaii public schools reflect a growing rate of teens participating in sexual intercourse: 44.3%. More than half of these sexually active students reported that they did NOT use a condom: 52.3%. This rate was the highest in the nation, and reflects a disparity that is 34% worse than the national average.

I praise the introducers of SB922 for having the foresight to increase collaboration between the Departments of Health and Education to maximize the use of medically accurate and age-appropriate curricula. We must work together as a State to empower our students with the necessary information and resources to keep themselves safe and healthy.

Thank you for your consideration.

Kim Coco Iwamoto, Esq.
State of Hawaii Board of Education Member, Oahu-at-Large

Date: 02/04/2011

Committee: Senate Education/Health

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Kathryn Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: SB 0922 RELATING TO HEALTH

Purpose of Bill: Specifies additional elements of Hawaii's existing sexuality health education law and its implementation. Requires the department of education (DOE) to provide certain types of information to the public and to parents. Allows parents to opt out of the DOE's sexuality health education.

Department's Position: The Department of Education (Department) does not support SB 922 as currently drafted. The Department provides comprehensive medically-accurate sex education through the Hawaii Content and Performance Standards (HCPS) for Health Education and follows the 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 skill development in the use of

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

Students experience appropriate and cumulative skills and facts beginning in kindergarten through grade 12 in Health Education in HCPS which includes: Accessing Information, Self Management, Analyzing Influences, Interpersonal Communication, Decision Making, Goal Setting and Advocacy. The Health Education Standards and Benchmarks are accessible to the public at: <http://standardstoolkit.k12.hi.us/index.html> Currently, when teachers cover Healthy Sexuality in the classroom, the standard of practice is to inform parents that a written request from the parent or guardian for student exemption from participation in sexual education instruction is needed.

As stated online in the *Curriculum Framework for Health Education*, the Department periodically reviews nationally recognized, research-based curriculum materials and the Curriculum and Instruction Branch (CIB) provides a list of recommended textbooks and other instructional materials for select curricular areas.

The Department has content area educational specialists who research, develop and maintain research-based, best practices in all content areas, including health education. During the school year, opportunities to learn these best practices are offered to all schools by way of professional development workshops.

The Hawaii Teacher Standards Board requires candidates to meet licensure requirements. They are:

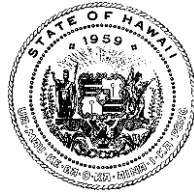
1. Completing a State-approved teacher education program from an accredited institution, and
2. Passing appropriate PRAXIS tests at the State-validated levels.

The website for the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board is: <http://htsb.org>.

Licensure requirements, teacher employment criteria maintained by the Office of Human Resources and *Profile of an Effective Teacher* describe minimum education and training requirements for health education teachers. The Department currently collaborates and consults with the Department of Health on sexuality health education and maintains that the Department's standards, policies and guidelines are not to be eliminated or modified by another agency as specified in sections 5(d) and 5(h).

WRITTEN ONLY

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



LORETTA J. FUDDY, A.C.S.W., M.P.H.
ACTING DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

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

In reply, please refer to:
File:

Senate Committees on Education and Health

S.B. 922, Relating to Health

**Testimony of Loretta J. Fuddy, A.C.S.W., M.P.H.
Acting Director of Health**

February 4, 2011

1 **Department's Position:** The Department of Health opposes this measure as it is unnecessary.

2 **Fiscal Implications:** None

3 **Purpose and Justification:** The purpose of this measure is to amend Section 321-11.1, Hawaii Revised
4 Statutes, to specify additional elements of Hawaii's existing sexuality health education law and its
5 implementation; require the Department of Education (DOE) to provide certain types of information to
6 the public and to parents; and to allow parents of students to request that their children not receive the
7 sexuality health education provided pursuant to Hawaii's sexuality health education law. Currently the
8 DOE confers with the DOH on a routine basis regarding teen pregnancy prevention programs in the
9 public middle and high schools. The curricula used in the schools are evidence-based and meet the
10 Hawaii DOE Content and Performance Standards and the Centers for Disease Control's (CDC)
11 evaluation rigor and performance standards. The department defers to the DOE on the sections relating
12 to education.

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

**Testimony on SB 922
Relating to Comprehensive Sex Education**

**COMMITTEE ON HEALTH
Senator Josh Green, M.D., Chair
Senator Clarence Nishihara, Vice Chair**

**COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
Senator Jill Tokuda, Chair
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair**

**Friday, February 4, 2011, 2:45 p.m.
Conference Room 225, State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813**

My name is Sharon Ferguson-Quick and as Executive Director of the Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women, I'm providing written testimony on the measure Relating to Health SB 922. I strongly support this bill in its purpose to require that public schools in keeping with Hawaii law provide sex education that provides medically accurate, factual information that is age-appropriate and comprehensive. It also puts in place mechanisms to ensure that the curriculum is implemented and supports the health and safety of our youth.

Hawaii Revised Statutes 367 established the Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women (HSCSW) on May 15, 1964. That legislation established a continuing body to aid in the implementation of recommendations, to develop long range goals and to coordinate research planning, programming and action on the opportunities, need, problems and contributions of women in Hawaii. In its 43 years the Commission has worked to ensure women and girls full and equal coverage under the law. Our goal is to bring a focus on women and the issues of concern to them. Family including the education of their children is a top priority.

We want the best for our children. We want them to make solid, sound decisions in their lives. To that end we work diligently to see that they have the tools and the skills to make the right choices in their lives. By the time they are teenagers these choices have far-reaching consequences. Our only hope is that we have equipped them with the tools to navigate their worlds successfully. One of the major tools we must put in their hands is knowledge and information. They must have this information to fully understand the repercussions and the consequences of their actions. When it comes to sex information they must be given medically accurate factual information. We have proof that when its given to them they do.

Our children today are exposed to a wide range of influencing forces that often give them half truths and distorted perceptions. Armed only with this misinformation they step many times, statistics tell us, into harm's way including engaging in early sexual experiences, unintended pregnancies, and sexually transmitted diseases. With this bill the Legislature has the opportunity to see that our young people are given the information they need to understand all the choices available to them. This bill will ensure that they are given the information that allows them to access the optimal protection whenever they choose to become sexually active. They'll learn all the ways to protect themselves from sexually transmitted diseases. In the end, they will be armed with all the weapons to protect themselves and that is a priceless thing to give our children. We can't make all their decisions for them, but we can see that they are given the tools to make the best decisions for themselves.

I strongly support this bill.

Sharon Ferguson-Quick
Executive Director
Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women
808-586-5758
Sharon.Y.Ferguson-Quick@hawaii.gov

HAWAII YOUTH SERVICES NETWORK

677 Ala Moana Boulevard, Suite 702 Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Phone: (808) 531-2198 Fax: (808) 534-1199

Web site: <http://www.hysn.org> E-mail: info@hysn.org

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 House

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

Bobby Benson Center

Catholic Charities Hawaii

Central Oahu Youth Services Assn.

Child and Family Service

Coalition for a Drug Free Hawaii

College Connections

Community Assistance Center

Domestic Violence Action Center

EPIC, Inc.

Family Support Services of West Hawaii

Foster Family Programs of Hawaii

Friends of the Missing Child Center of HI

Hale Kipa, Inc.

Hale 'Opio Kauai, Inc.

Hawaii Behavioral Health

Hawaii Foster Parent Association

Hawaii Student Television

Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies Coalition

Hina Mauka Teen Care

Hui Malama Learning Center

Kahi Mohala Behavioral Health

Kama'aina Kids, Inc.

KEY (Kualoa-Heeia Ecumenical Youth)
Project

Kids Behavioral Health

Kids Hurt Too

Kokua Kalihi Valley

Life Foundation

Marimed Foundation

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

Queen Liliuokalani Children's Center
Kona Unit

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 1, 2011

To: Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
And members of the Committee on Human Services

Senator Josh Green, M.D., Chair
And members of the Committee on Health

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 922 RELATED TO HEALTH

Hawaii Youth Services Network (HYSN), a statewide coalition of more than 50 youth-serving organizations, strongly supports SB 922 Related to Health.

Hawaii ranks 17th in the United States in teen pregnancy and 7th in Chlamydia infections. Hawaii youth have the **lowest rate of condom use among sexually active students** in the country. Teen child bearing **costs Hawaii taxpayers 22 million dollars per year**, two-thirds of it in state and local costs.

Comprehensive sexual health education, which supports abstinence as the most effective way to prevent unplanned pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections while teaching the skills needed for sexually active youth to protect themselves is effective. Yet many Hawaii students do not receive reproductive health education in public schools. At this time, some schools provide high quality reproductive health education, some provide a lesson or two, and some students receive no instruction.

In October 2010 at the request of Representative John Mizuno, Hawaii Youth Services Network convened a group of 22 service providers and other interested persons to come to agreement on the most effective ways to prevent teen pregnancy and STIs. The consensus was that the top priority was to require all public secondary schools to provide comprehensive sexuality education using evidence-based programs with fidelity.

Over the past five years, HYSN and partner organizations have provided pregnancy prevention education to more than 4,000 Hawaii youth using effective, evidence-based programs that encourage young people to consider how unplanned pregnancy and STIs would prevent them from achieving their

goals and dreams, while teaching them decision-making, negotiation, and refusal skills. Evaluation demonstrates that after completing the program, students are more likely to delay sexual initiation and have the skills and intention to practice safer sex when they become sexually active.

Many families find it difficult to discuss sexual topics with their children and most welcome school-based reproductive health education. When parents are fully informed about pregnancy and STI prevention education program through school-based meetings, brochures, and consent forms, only 1% of parents choose not to allow their children to participate. This bill ensures that parents will continue to have the right to opt out of participation in sexual health education programs.

In September 2010, HYSN was awarded **five million dollars in federal funds** to replicate evidence-based programs for pregnancy prevention. HYSN and its 10 partner organizations across the state are prepared to work in DOE schools to provide sexual health education. HYSN will provide training and technical assistance to DOE teachers to improve their competency in conducting pregnancy and STI prevention education **at no cost to the State of Hawaii** using these federal grant funds.

We believe that all Hawaii youth need and deserve the opportunity to learn the skills to make healthy lifestyle choices. We urge your support for this bill, which will increase the health and safety of our young people.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Judith F. Clark
Executive Director



Email to: EDUTestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov
Hearing on: February 4, 2011 @ 2:45 p.m.
Room #225

DATE: February 3, 2011

TO: Joint Hearing on Senate Education & Human Services

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Senator Josh Green, M.D., Chair
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair

FROM: Allen Cardines, Jr., Executive Director

RE: Opposition to SB 922 Relating to Health

Honorable Chairs and members of the Senate Committees on Education and Health, I am Allen Cardines, representing the Hawaii Family Forum. Hawaii Family Forum is a non-profit, pro-family education organization committed to preserving and strengthening families in Hawaii, representing a network of various Christian Churches and denominations.

We believe this bill is problematic because it encourages children to have sex outside of marriage, indoctrinate these same children with the idea that same-sex relations are normal and/or equal to heterosexual relationships, encourage abortions and birth control use, introduce topics of human sexuality prematurely, and subordinate parental teachings on the topic on human sexuality to the agenda held by progressives.

With the budget crisis and limited resources, as well as test scores below most of the other states, our state should focus on providing the basic education to children and helping them graduate.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.



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

February 3, 2011

Testimony in Support: SB 922

To: Chair Jill Tokuda, Vice Chair Michelle Kidani and Members of the Senate Committee on Education and Chair Josh Green, Vice Chair Clarence Nishihara, and Members of the Senate Committee on Health
From: Katie Reardon, Director of Government Relations & Public Affairs, Planned Parenthood of Hawaii
Re: Testimony in Support of SB 922 Relating to Comprehensive Sex Education

Planned Parenthood of Hawaii (PPHI) supports SB 922 Relating to Comprehensive Sex Education, and we thank the committees for hearing this bill. SB 922 requires that public schools in Hawaii offer students sex education that is age appropriate, medically accurate and comprehensive. It also sets up mechanisms to ensure that sex education curriculums are implemented and comply with Hawaii's existing laws regarding sexual health education. We find this bill to be a crucial step toward ensuring the health and safety of Hawaii's youth.

Hawaii's youth deserve the best and most effective sex education. Earlier this year, the Hawaii Youth Risk Behavior Survey revealed more disturbing data. It found that the rate of teens participating in sexual intercourse increased in 2009.¹ Less than half- only 47%- of all teens are using condoms.² That's the lowest rate of condom use in the United States.

As a result, we see high rates of teen pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases. The teen pregnancy rate was 71 per 1000 teens ages 15-19 – giving Hawaii the 17th highest teen pregnancy rate in the country.³ Nationally, gonorrhea rates are on the rise and other STDs such as Chlamydia and syphilis continue to significantly impact the young population.⁴ In fact, one in four new STDs occur in adolescents. And in Hawaii, a 2004 study found that youth aged 15-24 bore the highest burden, experiencing 67% of all Chlamydia infections.⁵ Hawaii has the nation's 6th highest rate of Chlamydia infection.⁶

In 2009 Hawaii made a big step forward when it passed HRS §321-11.1, requiring that state funded sexual health programs be comprehensive and medically accurate. However, we can do more to ensure that all students receive age appropriate and effective sexual health education and receive it more often. Department of Education (DOE) Benchmarks require that students receive health education in elementary (grade 5), middle school (grade 7) and high school. For some students this means that they receive in-depth, accurate and effective sexual health education at least three times between the ages of 11 and 18. However, there is little consistency and accountability between schools. Too many students receive inadequate sexual health education. With no standard curriculum for sexual health, teachers are often left decide what to teach on their own.

¹ Youth Risk Behavior Survey, Hawaii 2009 Results, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, accessed from <http://apps.nccd.cdc.gov/youthonline/App/Results.aspx?LID=HI> on September 14, 2010.

² Id.

³ US Teenage Pregnancies, Births and Abortions: National and State Trends and Trends by Race and Ethnicity, January 2010, accessed from <http://www.guttmacher.org/pubs/USTPtrends.pdf> on January 29, 2010

⁴ American Social Health Association, "STD Statistics", www.ashastd.org

⁵ Hawaii Department of Health. "Case Rate of Reported Cases of Chlamydia, Hawai'i and US, 1986-2004." Accessed from <http://hawaii.gov/health/healthy-lifestyles/std-aids/data-statistics/figures/stats-chlamydia.pps> on August 15, 2008.

⁶ Id.

Honolulu Health Center

1350 S. King Street, Suite 310
Honolulu, HI 96814
808-589-1149

Kailua Kona Health Center

75-184 Hualalai Road, Suite 205
Kailua Kona, HI 96740
808-329-8211

Kahului (Maui) Health Center

140 Ho'ohana Street, Suite 303
Kahului, HI 96732
808-871-1176
(A Maui United Way Agency)

SB 922 will help ensure that effective sexual health education is taught in all schools and proposes a system for implementation and accountability. 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. Accordingly, we encourage the Committees to pass SB 922. Thank you.

Erin Conner

From: Marjorie Au [marjorie@hiconvey.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 02, 2011 3:10 PM
To: EDU Testimony
Subject: SB 922 Testimony

**RELATING TO COMPREHENSIVE SEX EDUCATION
SB 922**

TO: Senate Committees on Education and Health
Date: February 2, 2011

Dear Committee Members:

Please give your support to SB 922 in consideration of the following reasons:

- SB 922, requires that public schools in Hawaii offer students sex education that is age appropriate, medically accurate and comprehensive. It also establishes mechanisms to ensure that sex education curricula are implemented and comply with Hawaii's existing laws regarding sexual health education. This bill is a crucial step toward ensuring the health and safety of Hawaii's youth.
- Hawaii's youth deserve the best and most effective sex education. Comprehensive sex education requires that education include information on contraception, condoms, and sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV, in addition to information about abstinence. It also teaches students to make healthy decisions about their own sexual health and in building relationships with others. The purpose of SB 922 is to ensure that all students receive effective sex education.
- Our teens who chose to be sexually active must have the right information to keep themselves healthy and safe. We can do more to ensure that all students receive age appropriate and effective sexual health education and receive it more often.
- 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.

Respectfully submitted,
Marjorie Au, Board Member, Planned Parenthood of Hawaii



January 19, 2011

TO: Senator Josh Green, M.D., Chair, Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair and Members of the Committee on Health
Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair, Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair and Members of the Committee on Education

FROM: Jackie Berry, Executive Director

RE: **922**

Hearing: Friday, February 4, 2011 at 2:45pm

Honorable Chairperson Green, Vice Chairperson Nishihara and Members of the Committee on Health
Honorable Chairperson Tokuda, Vice Chairperson Kidani and Members of the Committee on Education

HMHB is a statewide coalition of public and private agencies and individuals committed to the improvement of maternal and infant health status in Hawaii through education, coordination and advocacy. **HMHB is testifying today in support of SB 922 Relating to Health.**

We need our young people to know how to deal with sexual and emotional issues. The education needs to be medically accurate and age appropriate. While Hawaii has one of the lowest rates of teens reporting sexual intercourse, of those having sex, only 54% are using condoms. Hawaii has one of the nation's highest rates of Chlamydia infection, an STD that can go undetected and cause long term problems, including the ability to not have a healthy pregnancy outcome.

Emphasizing sexual health education and healthy relationships is important toward teaching youth how to prevent pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases and to make healthy responsible choices when it comes to sex and relationships.

We urge you support of this bill.

Mahalo for your consideration of this bill and our testimony.

845 22nd Avenue, Honolulu, Hawaii 96816
Phone # (808) 737-5805

E-mail: jackieb@hmhb-hawaii.org website: www.hmhb-hawaii.org

Chairs Tokuda and Green and Members of the Committees on Education and
Health,
February 4, 2011
Page 2 of 2

a focus on delaying sexual behavior *and* provide information on how sexually active young people can protect themselves.”⁴

Parents want schools to teach comprehensive sexuality education

- More than 85 percent of Americans believe that it is appropriate for school-based sex education programs to teach students how to use and where to get contraceptives.⁵

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 45 years.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Laurie Temple
Staff Attorney
ACLU of Hawaii

⁴ Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, *Fact Sheet: Young People at Risk: HIV/AIDS Among America's Youth*, National Center for HIV, STD and TB Prevention. March 2002.

⁵ National Public Radio, Kaiser Family Foundation, and Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government, *Sex Education in America*, January 2004.

American Civil Liberties Union of Hawaii
P.O. Box 3410
Honolulu, Hawaii 96801
T: 808.522-5900
F: 808.522-5909
E: office@acluhawaii.org
www.acluhawaii.org

ATTN: COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH
Senator Josh Green, M.D., Chair
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair

DATE: Friday, February 04, 2011
TIME: 2:45PM
PLACE: Conference Room 225

SB 922 - RELATING TO HEALTHCARE - Requiring the department of education (DOE) to provide certain types of information to the public and to parents and allowing parents to opt out of the DOE's sexuality health education.

STRONG SUPPORT

Aloha Chair Tokuda, Chair Green and members of the Health and Education Committees:

I am Ann S. Freed, Co-Chair of the Hawai'i Women's Coalition.

We are **in strong support of SB 922.**

Hawaii's youth deserve the best and most effective sex education. Unfortunately that is not what they are getting. After years of emotional head-in-the-sand, just-say-no policies we find Hawai'i once again in the forefront of teen pregnancy and STDs.

Earlier this year, the Hawai'i Youth Risk Behavior Survey revealed disturbing data. The teen pregnancy rate was 71 per 1000 teens ages 15-19 – giving Hawai'i the **17th highest teen pregnancy rate in the country.** In Hawai'i, a 2004 study found that youth aged 15-24 bore the highest burden, experiencing 67% of all Chlamydia infections. **Hawai'i has the nation's 6th highest rate of Chlamydia infection.**

The same study found profound neglect and ignorance among Hawaii's youth in the area of reproductive protection. According to the study, while the **rate of teens participating in sexual intercourse increased in 2009**, less than half- only 47%- of all teens are using condoms. **That's the lowest rate of condom use in the United States.**

We understand that human sexuality is complex with social, psychological, cultural and spiritual implications for teens and adults. But pretending that teens are not engaging in sex is not going to make the associated problems go away. Our teens deserve better from us. Teach morality in the homes and the churches, but make sure that medically accurate information is available to teens that are sexually active. We can do more to ensure that all students receive age appropriate and effective sexual health education and receive it more often. Let's keep our teens health and safe.

Regards,

Ann S. Freed
Co-Chair Hawai'i Women's Coalition
95-227 Waikalani Dr. A403
Mililani, HI 96789

808-623-5676



Committee: Committees on Education and Health
Hearing Date/Time: Friday, February 4, 2011, 2:45 p.m.
Place: Conference Room 225
Re: Testimony of the ACLU of Hawaii in Support of S.B. 922

Dear Chairs Tokuda and Green and Members of the Committees on Education and Health:

The American Civil Liberties Union of Hawaii (“ACLU of Hawaii”) writes in support of S.B. 922 and applauds your Committees for considering this bill.

S.B. 922 will help to ensure the health and safety of Hawaii’s youth. Evidence shows that sex 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 infections (STIs) - can help teens make healthy and responsible life decisions.¹

Giving teens the information they need to make responsible life decisions about sex not only helps teens choose to delay sex, but also helps to protect their health.

- A nationwide study of 15-19 year olds found that teens who participated in sexuality education programs that both (a) discuss the importance of delaying sex and (b) provide information about contraceptive use were significantly less likely to report teen pregnancies than were those who received either no sex education or attended abstinence-only-until-marriage programs.²
- A review of 115 sex education programs found that curricula that both (a) stress waiting to have sex and (b) provide information about using contraception effectively can significantly delay the initiation of sex, reduce the frequency of sex, reduce the number of sexual partners, and increase condom or contraceptive use among teens.³
- The Centers for Disease Control & Prevention note that “research has clearly shown that the most effective programs to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS are comprehensive ones that include

¹ Douglas Kirby, Ph.D., *Emerging Answers 2007: Research findings on Programs to Reduce Teen Pregnancy and Sexually Transmitted Diseases*, The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy, November 2007.

² Pamela K. Kobler, RN, et al., *Abstinence-Only and Comprehensive Sex Education and the Initiation of Sexual Activity and Teen Pregnancy*, Journal of Adolescent Health, Spring 2008.

³ Douglas Kirby, Ph.D., *Emerging Answers 2007: Research findings on Programs to Reduce Teen Pregnancy and Sexually Transmitted Diseases*, The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy, November 2007.

American Civil Liberties Union of Hawaii
P.O. Box 3410
Honolulu, Hawaii'i 96801
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Erin Conner

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 03, 2011 10:52 PM
To: EDU Testimony
Cc: karend@hrtl.org
Subject: Testimony for SB922 on 2/4/2011 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for EDU/HTH 2/4/2011 2:45:00 PM SB922

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Karen DiCostanzo
Organization: Hawaii Right to Life
Address: 81 S Hotel St, Ste 200-B Honolulu, HI
Phone: 808-585-8205
E-mail: karend@hrtl.org
Submitted on: 2/3/2011

Comments:

On behalf of Hawaii Right to Life and its members statewide, we SUPPORT SB 922.

Senate Bill 922 states that schools shall be required to notify and receive written consent from parents or legal guardians prior to any sex education, explain the content of sex ed programs, and allow parents the right to opt out their children from the DOE's sex ed program. We agree with these provisions.

In the previous session, Hawaii legislators voted to refuse Title X federal funding for abstinence-based sex ed, which is the only proven method of preventing pregnancy, sexually transmitted disease, and other problems.

Instruction about sexual health, whether at home, in school, from peers, or from other sources informs young people about how to conduct themselves and has a significant effect on the rate of unintended teen pregnancy and therefore abortion. Teen parenting is not only challenging for the families involved but frequently has significant societal costs. It is our opinion that written notification of the school sex ed program can be helpful in encouraging parental involvement in discussing these matters with their children.

We support the concept of parental choice in the matter of sex ed as well as acknowledging that parents have the legal right to opt out, in effect saying no to sex ed philosophies with which they may not agree and allowing them the ability to teach kids the facts of life themselves.

PRO-FAMILY HAWAII

P.O. Box 25158

Honolulu, Hawaii 96825

Phone and Fax: (808) 396-6569

February 3, 2011

Testimony for EDU/HTH

On SB922

2:45 p.m., 2/4/11, Room 225

Pro-Family Hawaii is totally opposed to SB922.
Furthermore, sex education should be left to parents alone.

Sincerely,



Daniel P. McGivern
President

Erin Conner

From: Phil & Dorothy Morris [pdmorris@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 02, 2011 12:04 PM
To: EDU Testimony
Subject: Support for SB 922

Dorothy A. Morris
Senate Committees on Health and Education
Friday February 4, 2011 at 2:45 pm, Room 225
SB 922 Comprehensive Sex Education

As mother, grandmother and great grandmother, I strongly support SB 922. Although our Department of Education has requirements for sexual health education, there is widespread inconsistency and accountability between schools. We need ways to ensure that all schools comply with state law. SB 922 can accomplish this. Hawaii is in the top ten of the fifty states for rates of sexually transmitted diseases, we have the lowest rate of condom use in the United States, and we are in the top twenty for teen pregnancy. Clearly, our youth need comprehensive, medically accurate sexual health education. We must keep our youth health and safe.



Holly J. Huber

Phone: (808) 554-7692 • E-mail: hollyjhuber@gmail.com

Blog: honolulupropertytaxreform.wordpress.com

Hawaii State Senate
Committee Education and Committee on Health
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 225
Hearing: Tuesday, February 4 @ 2:45 PM

RECEIVED

RE: Testimony In Support of SB922 Relating to Health

02-03-11 10:00 AM

Aloha Senators:

I support SB922 because I believe that information is power. Our young people should have access to reliable, accurate information regarding sexuality and contraception so they can make informed decisions and stay healthy.

A vote in favor of SB922 is a vote to support evidence-based, medically accurate, culturally appropriate sex education programs that address both abstinence and contraception for the prevention of pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections, including HIV/AIDS.

Planned Parenthood of Hawaii supports SB922 and I support Planned Parenthood.

Please vote YES on SB922.

Sincerely,

Holly J. Huber

Erin Conner

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 02, 2011 11:53 PM
To: EDU Testimony
Cc: toddhairgrove@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB922 on 2/4/2011 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for EDU/HTH 2/4/2011 2:45:00 PM SB922

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Todd Hairgrove
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: toddhairgrove@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/2/2011

Comments:

Erin Conner

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 03, 2011 12:15 AM
To: EDU Testimony
Cc: merway@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for SB922 on 2/4/2011 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for EDU/HTH 2/4/2011 2:45:00 PM SB922

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Marjorie Erway
Organization: Individual
Address: PO Box 2807 Kailua Kona, HI 96745
Phone: 324-4624
E-mail: merway@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 2/3/2011

Comments:

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.

Please support this bill as it is a crucial step toward ensuring the health and safety of Hawai'i's youth.

Erin Conner

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 03, 2011 1:38 AM
To: EDU Testimony
Cc: jadamesq@aol.com
Subject: Testimony for SB922 on 2/4/2011 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for EDU/HTH 2/4/2011 2:45:00 PM SB922

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Jo-Ann M. Adams, Esq.
Organization: Individual
Address: 411 Hobron Ln #801 Honolulu, HI 96815
Phone: 808-528-2100
E-mail: jadamesq@aol.com
Submitted on: 2/3/2011

Comments:

Hawaii's youth desperately need effective sex education!

The Hawaii Youth Risk Behavior Survey revealed that the rate of teens engaging in sexual intercourse increased in 2009. Only 47% used condoms. That's the lowest rate of condom use in the nation!

As a result, Hawaii has high rates of teen pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases. The teen pregnancy rate was 71 per 1000 teens ages 15-19 - giving Hawaii the 17th highest teen pregnancy rate in the country. Nationally, gonorrhea is on the rise and other STDs, such as Chlamydia significantly impact teens. In fact, one in four new STDs occur in adolescents. Hawaii has the 6th highest rate of Chlamydia infection in the nation.

Given these statistics, it is clear that Hawaii teens are not making good decisions about sexual health. They need comprehensive sex education, which includes information on contraception, condoms, sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV, and abstinence.

Abstinence-only education has been shown to be completely ineffective; in fact children taught "abstinence only" are more likely to engage in sex.

When someone contracts HIV, "You should have said, 'no'," is little comfort - to the teen, to parents, to family members, to friends.

The purpose of SB 922 is to ensure that all students receive effective sex education. Department of Education (DOE) Benchmarks require that students receive some form of sexual health education in elementary (grade 5), middle school (grade 7) and high school. Some students get in-depth, accurate and effective sexual health education while others get little or not sex education. There is little consistency and accountability.

SB 922, requires public schools to offer students sex education that is age appropriate, medically accurate and comprehensive. It sets up mechanisms to ensure that sex education curricula are actually implemented and comply with Hawaii's existing laws regarding sexual health education.

Erin Conner

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 03, 2011 11:42 AM
To: EDU Testimony
Cc: casper@signinghawaii.com
Subject: Testimony for SB922 on 2/4/2011 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for EDU/HTH 2/4/2011 2:45:00 PM SB922

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Michael Kaster
Organization: Individual
Address: 94-207 Waipahu St. #254 Wa ipahu, HI
Phone: 808-348-2291
E-mail: casper@signinghawaii.com
Submitted on: 2/3/2011

Comments:

Erin Conner

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 03, 2011 11:58 AM
To: EDU Testimony
Cc: jbickel15@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB922 on 2/4/2011 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for EDU/HTH 2/4/2011 2:45:00 PM SB922

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: John Bickel
Organization: Individual
Address: 2415 Ala Wai Blvd. Honolulu
Phone: 808-728-9682
E-mail: jbickel15@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 2/3/2011

Comments:

As a teacher I support this bill. I deal with teenagers every day and many have dangerous misconceptions about sex. It may not enhance their NCLB skills, but effective sex education is an important ingredient in educating the whole child. Please pass this bill.

SB922, Comprehensive Sexuality Health Education
[http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/session2011/bills/SB922 .htm](http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/session2011/bills/SB922.htm)

Testimony of Nandar Aung, Doctor of Public Health Student
Department of Public Health Sciences, John A. Burns School of Medicine
University of Hawai`i at Manoa
Friday, February 4, 2011 at 2:45pm

Honorable Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the House Education Committee:

My name is Nandar Aung, a doctoral student of Public Health focusing on parent-teen communication and adolescent sexual behaviors in Hawai`i. I am testifying today as an individual. I strongly support of this bill for comprehensive sex education, which can delay teen's sexual behavior, prevent the transmission of sexually transmitted diseases, and reduce the rate of teen pregnancy in the state of Hawai`i.

I also respectfully support this bill because SB922 proposes a standard curriculum that shall provide medically accurate and factual information that is age appropriate and include information on contraception, condoms, and sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV, in addition to information about abstinence.

Problem: According to the 2009 Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance Survey (YRBS), 44% of Hawai`i's high school students and 12.5% of middle school students have had sexual intercourse, and 6% had sexual intercourse for the first time before age 13. Sexually active teens are more likely to use other substances like alcohol and tobacco, fall behind academically, drop out of school and have unintended pregnancy. Studies have suggested that sexual engagement among youth is linked to lack of comprehensive sex education.

Current Sex Ed Curriculum Varies Across Schools. The Department of Education is required to teach sexual health education in elementary school (grade 5), middle school (grade 7) and high school. However, there is little consistency across schools. Students are getting mixed information about sexual health and contraception, including unreliable information from other students. Our teens are at increased risk of sexually transmitted disease because of the lack of a standardized curriculum.

School Sex Education is Protective: Dr. Kathryn Braun, Dr. Eric Hurwitz and I did a study on the Hawai`i's youth sexual behaviors and access to sources of sex education/information. We obtained data from the 2009 Hawai`i YRBS on 3,122 students in grades 6 through 12. We examined the relationship between youth's ever having sex and their access to sex information from 4 reliable sources: classroom-based sex education; doctors and nurses; parents; and other adults. We found that students who were taught about HIV in school were significantly less likely to have had sex, regardless of grade level. Our findings suggest that comprehensive sex education in school may help protect teens from engaging sexual behavior.

Please Support SB922: The current Bill requires Hawai`i public schools to offer students a standard sex education curriculum that is age appropriate, medically accurate and comprehensive. I strongly support this Bill, and urge you to pass it. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.

Re: **Support of SB922 – Comprehensive Sex Education**

Senate Education Committee
Senate Health Committee

Hearing date: Friday, February 04, 2011

Hearing time: 2:45p.m.

Location: Rm. 225

Will not be present at hearing

February 3, 2011

To: Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Education Chair

Senator Josh Green, M.D., HTH Chair

Senator Kidani, Education Vice Chair

Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, HTH Vice Chair

Members of the Education Committee

Members of the Health Committee

Dear Chairs Tokuda, Green, and members of the Senate Education and Health Committees:

I'd like to submit my testimony of **strong support for SB922**, which requires Hawai'i's public schools to offer students sex education that is age appropriate, medically accurate and comprehensive.

Earlier this year, the Hawai'i Youth Risk Behavior Survey revealed that the rate of teens participating in sexual intercourse increased in 2009.¹ Less than half- only 47%- of all Hawai'i teens are using condoms² --the lowest rate of condom use in the United States. As a result, we see high rates of teen pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases. The teen pregnancy rate was 71 per 1000 teens ages 15-19 – giving Hawai'i the 17th highest teen pregnancy rate in the country.

In addition to what's drafted in SB922, I'd like to suggest that this bill also includes (or makes clearer) that a comprehensive sex education will also provide students with information on resources – i.e., where one could get tested for STDs, pregnancy, etc. For a truly comprehensive education, teaching students where to get help is just as important as teaching them “how to prevent” and “what to do.”

Ensuring that Hawai'i'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.

Mahalo,

Carmille Lim
Aiea, HI
carmille.lim@gmail.com

¹ Youth Risk Behavior Survey, Hawaii 2009 Results, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, accessed from <http://apps.nccd.cdc.gov/youthonline/App/Results.aspx?LID=HI> on September 14, 2010.

² Id.

³ Hawaii Department of Health. “Case Rate of Reported Cases of Chlamydia, Hawai'i and US, 1986-2004.” Accessed from <http://hawaii.gov/health/healthy-lifestyles/std-aids/data-statistics/figures/stats-chlamydia.pps> on August 15, 2008.

⁴ Id.

Erin Conner

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 03, 2011 1:18 PM
To: EDU Testimony
Cc: graceyoung@clch.org
Subject: Testimony for SB922 on 2/4/2011 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for EDU/HTH 2/4/2011 2:45:00 PM SB922

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Grace Young
Organization: Individual
Address: 1424 Brigham Street Honolulu
Phone: 808 8417914
E-mail: graceyoung@clch.org
Submitted on: 2/3/2011

Comments:

The parents have the right to know what the school teaches our children.

Friday, February 4, 2011
State Capitol Room 225
2:45 p.m.

SB 922 Relating to Health

To: Senate Education Committee	Senate Health Committee
Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair	Senator Josh Green, M.D., Chair
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair	Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair

Testimony of: Debi Hartmann

As a parent of a Hawai'i public High School student, I appreciate the intent of this bill. The concept of making curriculum readily available to parents and ensuring an "opt-out" statute is appreciated.

After reviewing SB 922, I am not convinced that this particular bill fulfills the purpose as stated.

When it comes to readily available curriculum, It took me exactly three clicks of my computer mouse to pull the full curricular instructions for k-12 Sexuality Health Education and the year each section may be taught. I am not sure you can improve on that.

As far as "additional elements"

On page 2 starting at line 20 through page 3 line 12 all of the "new requirements" you are requesting – these are currently in the course curriculum of "Peer Education." The course is an elective, which may be the issue for the DOE rather than the legislature. Line 13, subsection (c) new language is disconcerting for me as a parent, it states in part – "at their own discretion teachers may answer in good faith..." Do we need to codify the concept of a teacher answering in good faith when a student asks a question? This appears to me to be a contractual issue between employee and employer rather than language codified in a health/education statute.

Parental Opt-Out

On page 4, line 8 subsection (g) speaks to a student being excused based on a written request of the parent/legal guardian. The opt-out language is important yet, parents can currently opt their children out of a section of curriculum that negatively impacts family life. The problem that parents have is that they are not notified by the school that certain curriculum will be taught during a certain week or day in order for them to avail themselves to the opt-out program. This statute does not guarantee that the DOE will make all necessary provisions to ensure that parents are notified of the exact time to opt out.

I feel very fortunate this past semester in that my student's teacher sent home a form that indeed stated which days certain subjects that might be considered of a sensitive nature would be discussed and if I felt so inclined I could opt my child out of those dates. Also if the dates changed, I would be notified. It would be nice to believe that this happened in all high schools Peer Education Program classes in our State, unfortunately I am aware that it is not the case.

I would therefore suggest that the committees on Education and Health re-evaluate this bill before passing it out of committee

Erin Conner

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 03, 2011 2:47 PM
To: EDU Testimony
Cc: bak_lan5@lava.net
Subject: Testimony for SB922 on 2/4/2011 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for EDU/HTH 2/4/2011 2:45:00 PM SB922

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Suzanne Ching
Organization: Individual
Address: Honolulu, HI
Phone:
E-mail: bak_lan5@lava.net
Submitted on: 2/3/2011

Comments:

Please let parents have a voice in their student's "education". Sex education should be a parent's choice and they have a right not to have their child participate.
Thank you, Suzanne

ATTN: COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair

ATTN: COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Senator Josh Green, M.D., Chair
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair

DATE: Friday, February 04, 2011

TIME: 2:45PM

PLACE: Conference Room 225

SB 922 - RELATING TO HEALTHCARE – Requiring the department of education (DOE) to provide certain types of information to the public and to parents and allowing parents to opt out of the DOE's sexuality health education.

STRONG SUPPORT

Aloha Chair Tokuda, Chair Green and members of the Health and Education Committees:

I am in strong support of SB 922.

Hawai'i's youth deserve the best and most effective sex education. We cannot continue to deny our children important information without having high pregnancy and STD rates..

Earlier this year, the Hawai'i Youth Risk Behavior Survey revealed that the teen pregnancy rate was 71 per 1000 teens ages 15-19 – giving Hawai'i the **17th highest teen pregnancy rate in the country**. In Hawai'i, a 2004 study found that youth aged 15-24 bore the highest burden, experiencing 67% of all Chlamydia infections. Hawai'i has the nation's **6th highest rate of Chlamydia infection**.

No study can tell us what we don't already know. Teens and young adults engage in sometimes very risky behavior. They need to know what the consequences of these actions are and we can provide this information.

I don't want to teach morality or impose my personal religious views. We need to provide them with accurate and important sex education that keeps them safe and healthy.

Mahalo for your time and consideration,

Teri Heede

92-994 Kanehoa Loop
Kapolei, HI 96707
808-672-6312

Erin Conner

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 03, 2011 5:00 PM
To: EDU Testimony
Cc: brian_ching@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB922 on 2/4/2011 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for EDU/HTH 2/4/2011 2:45:00 PM SB922

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Brian Ching
Organization: Individual
Address: 2234 University Ave Honolulu, HI
Phone: 282-9702
E-mail: brian_ching@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/3/2011

Comments:

Teaching AND promoting abstinence-based sex ed is essential in our public school system. Review and consent of the proposed material to be taught in our public schools must be in place.

Erin Conner

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, February 04, 2011 8:27 AM
To: EDU Testimony
Cc: beso2001@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB922 on 2/4/2011 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for EDU/HTH 2/4/2011 2:45:00 PM SB922

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Denise Wong
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: beso2001@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 2/4/2011

Comments:

I support SB922, schools should be required to notify and receive written consent by parents prior to any sex education in schools.

Erin Conner

From: Gwen Ilaban [gfilaban@aol.com]
Sent: Thursday, February 03, 2011 6:48 PM
To: EDU Testimony
Subject: Support SB 922

SB 922

Friday February 4, 2011 at 2:45 PM

Senate Committees on Health and Education, Room 225

Chairwoman Tokuda, Vice Chair Kidani and Chairman Green, Vice-Chair Nishihara:

Please give your support to SB922.

The purpose of SB 922 is to ensure that all students receive effective sex education. It will require public schools in Hawaii offer students sex education that is age appropriate, medically accurate and comprehensive. It also sets up mechanisms to ensure that sex education curriculums are implemented and comply with Hawaii's existing laws regarding sexual health education. It will also require the department of education (DOE) to provide certain types of information to the public and to parents. Parents will be able to opt out of the DOE's sexuality health education.

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.

Hawaii's youth deserve the best and most effective sex education. This bill is a crucial step toward ensuring the health and safety of Hawaii's youth.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Gwen Ilaban

76-6182 Alii Drive

Kailua-Kona, HI 96740

1 February 2011