

TESTIMONY to the Senate Committee Education

S.C.R. 77 and S.C. 44

Friday, March 22, 2013

2:05 PM -- Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted in **OPPOSITION** by Tito Montes, Ewa Beach, HI

Chairwoman Tokuda, Vice-Chair Kidani, and Committee Members

I am in vehement opposition to SCR 77 and SR44 for the following reasons:

1. It should not be up to the State to teach children sexual education
 - a. This is a responsibility of the family unit, especially since each family in Hawaii considers differently what is appropriate.
 - b. The state continuing to mandate a takeover of parental responsibilities will further marginalize the important roles of a mother and a father in a child's life and lead further to the disintegration of the family unit.
2. Children are not ready at an early age to handle a topic as complex and as potentially dangerous as human sexual relationships. Most children are not even aware of their own sexualities at an early age.
 - a. This education will most likely confuse them. Teenagers especially...we do not let them drive, drink, smoke, vote, enlist, have credit cards, hold jobs, and a multitude of other activities that are age restricted, but yet you want to place into their hands an aspect of human behavior, that while it can be wonderful and beautiful, is also potentially dangerous, life-threatening, and whose terrible unintended consequences extremely burdensome our society. **This is irresponsible and careless.**
 - b. Planned Parenthood website, sexual education should include:

"information and concerns about body image, contraception, gender, human growth and development, human reproduction, pregnancy, relationships, safer sex (prevention of sexually transmitted infections), sexual attitudes and values, sexual anatomy and physiology, sexual behavior, sexual health, sexual orientation, and sexual pleasure."
 - c. Today, a particularly insidious obstacle to the task of education is the massive presence in our society and culture of [relativism](#) which, recognizing nothing as definitive, leaves as the ultimate criterion only the self with its desires. And under the semblance of freedom it becomes a

prison for each one, for it separates people from one another, locking each person into his or her own ego.

3. Our culture today is rampant with inconsideration, vanity, and extreme selfishness. It is difficult for parents to keep children on a virtuous path. I am blessed that my wife and I have the skills and the resources necessary to homeschool our children. Many parents in Hawaii cannot do this. Many parents also find private schools to be cost prohibitive. So most parents **do not have a choice** but to send their children to schools run by the state, and what if they disagree with the sexual education you propose? They are caught in Catch-22, there's no choice...Ultimately, this ends up being a form of **discrimination**.
4. According to: Hawaii State Dept of Education, <http://www.doe.k12.hi.us/periodicals/update/2007/update0712.pdf>, Over 70% of 8th and 10th grade students do not meet standards in math, 35%-40% do not meet the standards in reading. From a fiscal standpoint, the state of Hawaii needs to concentrate more on fixing its failings than interfere in an area it should not stay out of.

LATE TESTIMONY

Opposed to SK-14
SK-17
Senate committee

I am a teacher to my children -
and have mental & spine into your laws

Intro, My name is Lissa Cockett, mother of three teens and someone who is passionate to see all youth prosper and become who they are meant to be. I am here to testify as I feel like things have been over complicated in the this quest to educate our states youth about sexual health and beyond.

all that entails

for the most part I oppose this resolution

I am concerned, I don't see how unifying a program or approach will benefit at this time since what is in place is not effective, in fact we are seeing statistics that our youth are more sexually active, there are more teen pregnancies, std's and less condom use just since 2009. We are also seeing a norm of youth taking their own lives at devastating rates-this is unacceptable and I feel it all relates to how we are educating in this area of sexual health. It may sound far fetched but the bottom line is what is the ultimate goal in educating about sexual health? Right now students are receiving a lot of info covering many aspects of sexuality and their health. In fact, they are getting bombarded with this type of information in their schools yet we are not seeing youth making better choices or being more responsible as these sex ed programs are designed to do. That tells me one thing....something needs to change drastically and I think the change is simple, more affordable and addresses more in depth young peoples character and the value of understanding and celebrating their identity.

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more on
our schools

One key symptom of sexual purmiscuity is a lack of esteem so young people have the YOLO mentality that they have very low self worth and don't see the relevance of guarding their hearts, mind and body.

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only to suffer sometimes life long consequences

This is a serious issue among this generation, all genders, all ethnicities etc. If the youth of our state understood more about their self worth, their identity, their value to our society they would in turn make better choices to do well in school, to guard themselves from poor choices that keep them from seeing their dreams fulfilled NOW and in the future. When we look our students in the eye and tell them they are valuable, amazing and loved there spirits respond.....dont we all respond to this type of nurturing? Of course we DO! When I was growing up...don't do...

It is time to draw a line in the sand and do something new, something different for the precious cargo found in each of our public schools. It cant look the same at each school because we know schools vary due to the varying aspects of demographics etc. We see some schools that have better graduating percentages and then we see some schools who have more teen pregnancies. So it would make sense that there is discernment and various things in place to help forge change for those schools. We can not try to fit everyone into a pretty package, instead it is important and urgent that we start addressing the real problems of today. Lets be relevant, kids do not engage if they hear the same message over and over and if it is not applicable to their lives. What about the the ever increasing rate of youth addicted to porn, drugs, sex, alcohol, who are choosing to end their lives because for some reason they have no hope. How could this happen right under our noses, that young people would want to take their own lives at such disturbing rates? When we begin to yank these horrible roots of despair, when we start speaking into our youths lives that we think they have more than what it takes to be responsible for their sexual health, that we think they are capable to make super great choices now that will in turn

the same mold or

bring about unbleivable, endless fruit in the days and years to come that is when we will see a shift, and a decline in destructive choices.

I have seen first hand positive response from highschool students at one of our public schools here on Oahu. It has been an amazing experience to speak to young people in a life equipping class about what it looks like to make good choices now, that the teen years are not meant to be selfish, do whatever ^{as} the choices they make today do indeed determine the success of their future. We pose it to them that they are like trees, meant to grow big, beautiful strong but what is required for that is that they must plant themselves in really great soil, find good nourishment and hang out with other trees that value what they value. If they make mistakes, no worries, get back on track, find mentors who will hold them accountable, set up actions to take when they feel tempted to do things they know will hurt them, their future. Respect each other as brothers and sisters and not as sex objects. That sex is not a game but a gift to be shared by mature individuals-sex is good, but not when it happens prematurely etc. WE EXPECT YOUTH WILL MAKE MISTAKES, JUST AS WE DO. Mistakes are amazing learning times so the only bad mistake is the one we don't learn from. I think that applies here today to this resolution. What mistake has our state made ^{in trying to} assure the youth here are getting what they need to live prosperous successful lives? We haven't done enough and the suicide rates, teen pregnancy rates, abortion rates, graduation percentages, std cases all tell us this is true right here in our beautiful state of Hawaii. It is a new day, and we have a huge opp to make some changes NOW that will bring amazing change to.

Lets get back to the basics, lets empower our youth with foundational nurturing that builds authentic unshakable character that in turn will benefit them as well as this state. Our kids are our treasure, they are remarkable, they are capable to do really hard things now that will bring about the change we want.

Lets give them the benefit of the doubt and stop adding more to their sex ed, lets give them less books, lectures, videos, websites etc about their sexual health and in turn help them to see their value so they will naturally make choices to be sexually responsible-because they see the value, they aren't pressured, but they embrace the seriousness and celebrate the power and authority they have over their own lives.

Here are a few comment s from some of the hundreds of students that have heard a message at their school about their value and have been told facts about what ^{it means to} being sexually active ^{+ how serious consequences of being sexually active} now can cost them.

It is my desire + passion to see more life giving, fruitful fruits brought into our schools.
I would love to discuss this more with this board and anyone else who is interested. Mahalo for your time.
and after

Call (808) 265-0702

Name ~~Alissa~~

Date 8/31/12

Period 1

GUEST SPEAKER FOLLOW-UP WORKSHEET

DIRECTIONS: Explain five (5) facts you learned from the guest speaker(s) presentation.

1. Status Quo - Reputation
2. One thing I learned from the video is that 1 out of 5 kids 12 and older have STD's
3. HPV cause's cervical cancer and kills 4,000 people a year
4. Sex is Not a game
5. You never know who has STD's, HPV etc

WRITE A PARAGRAPH (five to seven sentences) about thoughts or feelings you have as a result of what you learned from the guest speaker(s). Use statements such as "I thought," "I feel," "I believe," and so on. You cannot use your facts in this paragraph.

I feel stupid for not knowing a lot about sex. I don't believe in teen pregnancy and I think what they are teaching us is very important. I strongly dislike abortion. ALSO I'm grateful that they are here teaching us this.