

JAN 17 2014

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND THE DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION TO REPORT ON THE STATUS OF SEXUALITY HEALTH
EDUCATION PROGRAMS IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND THE FEASIBILITY OF
DEVELOPING A UNIFORM, MANDATORY SEXUALITY HEALTH EDUCATION
PROGRAM FOR ALL PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS.

1 WHEREAS, under the Hawaii State Constitution, the State
2 shall provide for the establishment, support, and control of a
3 statewide system of public schools free from sectarian control,
4 a state university, public libraries, and such other
5 institutions as may be deemed desirable, including physical
6 facilities therefor; and
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8 WHEREAS, the mission of the Board of Education is to
9 promote excellence and equity in Hawaii's public schools and
10 enable all students to meet their own unique and varied
11 potentials; and
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13 WHEREAS, the mission of the Department of Education is to
14 serve the community by developing the academic achievement,
15 character, and social-emotional well-being of students to the
16 fullest potential and to work with partners, families, and
17 communities to ensure that all students reach their aspirations
18 from early learning through college, career, and citizenship;
19 and
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21 WHEREAS, section 321-11.1, Hawaii Revised Statutes,
22 requires state-funded sexuality health education to be medically
23 accurate and age appropriate, and include education on
24 abstinence, contraception, and methods of disease and pregnancy
25 prevention; and
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27 WHEREAS, Hawaii's teen pregnancy rate is the twelfth
28 highest in the nation; and
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1 WHEREAS, teen childbearing costs Hawaii taxpayers
2 \$37,000,000 per year, seventy-one percent of which are state and
3 local costs; and

4
5 WHEREAS, Hawaii has historically high rates of teen
6 pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases, such as chlamydia;
7 and

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9 WHEREAS, Hawaii's high school students report the lowest
10 percentage of condom use of any state in the nation; and

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12 WHEREAS, according to the Hawaii Adolescent Reproductive
13 Health Survey of 2012, a survey of community attitudes toward
14 sexuality health education in Hawaii, ninety-seven percent of
15 survey participants reported that it was important or very
16 important to have sexuality health education as part of the
17 school's curriculum; and

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19 WHEREAS, education is key to reducing the number of cases
20 of sexually transmitted disease and the number of teen
21 pregnancies and to building stronger families and a healthier
22 future; and

23
24 WHEREAS, it is the intent of the Legislature to utilize all
25 available information to determine how to ensure that the youth
26 of Hawaii have the skills and tools necessary to make healthy
27 and responsible decisions with regard to their sexual and
28 reproductive health, through programs in the public school
29 system or through other means; now, therefore,

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31 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-seventh
32 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2014, the
33 House of Representatives concurring, that the Board of Education
34 and Department of Education are requested to report to the
35 Legislature on the status of sex education programs in public
36 schools and the feasibility of developing a uniform, mandatory
37 sexuality health education program for all public school
38 students that meets the requirements of section 321-11.1, Hawaii
39 Revised Statutes; and

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41 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education and
42 Department of Education are requested to determine the
43 following:
44



S.C.R. NO. 1

- 1 (1) Feasibility of including, as part of the Department of
2 Education's sexuality health education program,
3 social-emotional issues relating to sexuality,
4 including the development of:
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 - 6 (A) Relationships and communication skills to form
7 healthy relationships that are based on mutual
8 respect and affection and that are free from
9 violence, coercion, and intimidation;
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 - 11 (B) Skills in critical thinking, problem solving,
12 decision making, and stress management to help
13 students make healthy decisions about sexuality
14 and relationships; and
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 - 16 (C) Communication skills to enable students to
17 communicate with their parents, guardians, and
18 other trusted adults about sexuality and intimate
19 relations;
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- 21 (2) Feasibility of establishing minimum training standards
22 for sexuality health education teachers;
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- 24 (3) Feasibility of making sexuality health education
25 curricula available for public review;
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- 27 (4) Feasibility of establishing more effective monitoring
28 and oversight of the sexuality health education
29 program; and
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- 31 (5) Effectiveness of sexuality health education programs
32 used throughout the State, particularly with respect
33 to how these programs address high risk behaviors that
34 result in teen pregnancy and sexually transmitted
35 diseases, including:
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 - 37 (A) Information on and the process for determining
38 the content of curricula and programs, specific
39 details on the extent of use by and participation
40 of public schools and students; and
41
 - 42 (B) Identification of areas of potential improvement,
43 including how to more effectively address the



S.C.R. NO. 1

1 State's high rates of teen pregnancy and sexually
 2 transmitted diseases; and
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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education and
 5 Department of Education are requested to report their findings
 6 and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the
 7 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
 8 the Regular Session of 2015; and
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10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 11 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the
 12 Board of Education, Superintendent of Education, and Director of
 13 Health.
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 16

OFFERED BY: Erzanna Chun Cleveland

Michelle Sidani

Paul R

JR

Randy H Bob
~~Don~~ SC And Age

Paul R

