

FEB 03 2014

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## SENATE RESOLUTION

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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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30           WHEREAS, teen childbearing costs Hawaii taxpayers  
31 \$37,000,000 per year, seventy-one percent of which are state and  
32 local costs; and  
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1 WHEREAS, Hawaii has historically high rates of teen  
2 pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases, such as chlamydia;  
3 and  
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5 WHEREAS, Hawaii's high school students report the lowest  
6 percentage of condom use of any state in the nation; and  
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8 WHEREAS, according to the Hawaii Adolescent Reproductive  
9 Health Survey of 2012, a survey of community attitudes toward  
10 sexuality health education in Hawaii, ninety-seven percent of  
11 survey participants reported that it was important or very  
12 important to have sexuality health education as part of the  
13 school's curriculum; and  
14

15 WHEREAS, education is key to reducing the number of cases  
16 of sexually transmitted disease and the number of teen  
17 pregnancies and to building stronger families and a healthier  
18 future; and  
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20 WHEREAS, it is the intent of the Legislature to utilize all  
21 available information to determine how to ensure that the youth  
22 of Hawaii have the skills and tools necessary to make healthy  
23 and responsible decisions with regard to their sexual and  
24 reproductive health, through programs in the public school  
25 system or through other means; now, therefore,  
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27 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-seventh  
28 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2014,  
29 that the Board of Education and Department of Education are  
30 requested to report to the Legislature on the status of sex  
31 education programs in public schools and the feasibility of  
32 developing a uniform, mandatory sexuality health education  
33 program for all public school students that meets the  
34 requirements of section 321-11.1, Hawaii Revised Statutes; and  
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36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education and  
37 Department of Education are requested to determine the  
38 following:  
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- 40 (1) Feasibility of including, as part of the Department of  
41 Education's sexuality health education program,  
42 social-emotional issues relating to sexuality,  
43 including the development of:  
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- 1 (A) Relationships and communication skills to form  
2 healthy relationships that are based on mutual  
3 respect and affection and that are free from  
4 violence, coercion, and intimidation;  
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- 6 (B) Skills in critical thinking, problem solving,  
7 decision making, and stress management to help  
8 students make healthy decisions about sexuality  
9 and relationships; and  
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- 11 (C) Communication skills to enable students to  
12 communicate with their parents, guardians, and  
13 other trusted adults about sexuality and intimate  
14 relations;  
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- 16 (2) Feasibility of establishing minimum training standards  
17 for sexuality health education teachers;  
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- 19 (3) Feasibility of making sexuality health education  
20 curricula available for public review;  
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- 22 (4) Feasibility of establishing more effective monitoring  
23 and oversight of the sexuality health education  
24 program; and  
25
- 26 (5) Effectiveness of sexuality health education programs  
27 used throughout the State, particularly with respect  
28 to how these programs address high risk behaviors that  
29 result in teen pregnancy and sexually transmitted  
30 diseases, including:  
31
- 32 (A) Information on and the process for determining  
33 the content of curricula and programs, specific  
34 details on the extent of use by and participation  
35 of public schools and students; and  
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- 37 (B) Identification of areas of potential improvement,  
38 including how to more effectively address the  
39 State's high rates of teen pregnancy and sexually  
40 transmitted diseases; and  
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42 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education and  
43 Department of Education are requested to report their findings  
44 and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the



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1 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of  
2 the Regular Session of 2015; and

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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
5 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of  
6 Education, Superintendent of Education, and Director of Health.

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OFFERED BY: Shiranne Chun Oakland

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