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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO EDUCATION.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that sexual abuse remains  
2 a serious and ongoing threat to the safety, health, and well-  
3 being of children and young people in the State.

4           Although programs and department of education-approved  
5 curricula currently exist in the State to provide training to  
6 school teachers and staff and sexual abuse prevention education  
7 to students, implementation is not consistent system wide and  
8 resources for the provision of training and education are  
9 limited.

10           Consequently, students in Hawaii may not receive regular,  
11 consistent child abuse prevention education, nor are parents  
12 informed about child sexual abuse topics. In addition, many  
13 school teachers and staff do not receive sufficient training on  
14 talking to students about child sexual abuse prevention, the  
15 effects of child sexual abuse on children, handling sexual abuse  
16 disclosures, and mandated reporting.



1           Laws requiring that public school systems implement a  
2 program of regular, consistent sexual abuse prevention education  
3 for students, teacher and staff training, and parental  
4 involvement have passed in twenty-six states and the Territory  
5 of Guam and have been introduced in the legislatures of sixteen  
6 others. These laws represent a national trend in safety,  
7 health, and well-being education and are collectively referred  
8 to as "Erin's Law" after Erin Merryn, an Illinois survivor of  
9 child sexual abuse, who has led the national movement for  
10 required programs for child sexual abuse prevention education.

11           The purpose of this Act is to form a task force to guide  
12 the establishment of a program to educate public school students  
13 on sexual abuse prevention through use of age-appropriate  
14 curricula, provide relevant training to school teachers and  
15 staff, and inform parents about important child sexual abuse  
16 topics.

17           SECTION 2. (a) There is established the Erin's Law task  
18 force to be convened by the legislature to review current  
19 policies, programs, and curricula for educating students in the  
20 public school system about sexual abuse prevention and to report  
21 recommendations for the establishment of a program to educate



1 all children in grades pre-kindergarten through twelve in public  
2 schools on sexual abuse prevention through age appropriate  
3 curricula.

4 (b) The task force shall comprise:

5 (1) The superintendent, or the superintendent's designee;

6 (2) The director of health, or the director's designee;

7 (3) The director of human services, or the director's  
8 designee;

9 (4) The attorney general, or the attorney general's  
10 designee;

11 (5) The director of the executive office on early  
12 learning, or the director's designee;

13 (6) The executive director of the Hawaii Youth Services  
14 Network, or the executive director's designee;

15 (7) The executive director of the Sex Abuse Treatment  
16 Center, or the executive director's designee;

17 (8) A member of the senate, to be designated by the senate  
18 president;

19 (9) A member of the house of representatives, to be  
20 designated by the speaker of the house of  
21 representatives;



1           (10) An elementary school principal and a secondary school  
2                   principal, to be designated by the superintendent; and

3           (11) A representative from a charter school, to be  
4                   designated by the executive director of the state  
5                   public charter school commission.

6           (c) The respective members of the senate and house of  
7 representatives shall serve as the co-chairs of the task force.

8           (d) Members of the task force shall serve without  
9 compensation. No member shall be made subject to chapter 84,  
10 Hawaii Revised Statutes, solely because of that member's  
11 participation as a member of the task force.

12           (e) The meetings of the task force shall be exempt from  
13 chapter 92, Hawaii Revised Statutes. The initial meeting of the  
14 task force shall be held no later than August 12, 2016.

15           (f) The task force shall consider the following concepts  
16 when reviewing current policies, programs, and curricula and  
17 shall make recommendations for the establishment of a program:

18           (1) Current resources available in the State for educating  
19                   students in the public school system about sexual  
20                   abuse prevention;



- 1           (2) Existing gaps in child sexual abuse prevention  
2           education, including education, training, and  
3           information, as needed, for students, school teachers  
4           and staff, and parents and guardians;
- 5           (3) The Hawaii content and performance standards;
- 6           (4) Required elements for an instructional program for  
7           students in grades pre-kindergarten through twelve,  
8           including:
- 9           (A) Techniques to teach children to recognize sexual  
10           abuse, equip them with skills to reduce their  
11           vulnerability, and encourage them to report the  
12           abuse;
- 13           (B) Sessions of instruction to reinforce the concepts  
14           learned in the program;
- 15           (C) Sessions conducted annually, building on skills  
16           and knowledge learned in previous years;
- 17           (D) Developmentally-appropriate instruction for each  
18           grade level;
- 19           (E) Involvement of students as active learning  
20           participants, through such methods as discussion,  
21           modeling, and role playing;



- 1 (F) Capacity to be delivered by a range of personnel  
2 and professionals, including teachers, school  
3 counselors, and outside agency prevention  
4 educators; provided that the personnel and  
5 professionals should have a thorough knowledge of  
6 child sexual abuse, including how to respond  
7 appropriately to sexual abuse disclosures;
- 8 (G) An evaluation component with measurable outcomes;
- 9 (H) Instruction that is culturally sensitive and  
10 adaptable for use within varying school contexts,  
11 including age, race, and special needs;
- 12 (I) The use of evidence-based, age-appropriate  
13 curricula that uses discussions, role plays,  
14 activities, books, or other appropriate  
15 educational materials and methods;
- 16 (J) A professional training component for  
17 administrators, teachers, and other school  
18 personnel on talking to students about child  
19 sexual abuse prevention, effects of child sexual  
20 abuse on children, handling of sexual abuse  
21 disclosures, and mandated reporting; and



- 1           (K) A component that encourages parental or guardian  
2           involvement within the child sexual abuse  
3           program, which should inform parents or guardians  
4           about child sexual abuse topics, including  
5           discussion of child sexual abuse myths,  
6           characteristics of offenders, grooming behaviors,  
7           and how to discuss this topic with children;
- 8           (5) Title IX and any other federal and state laws and  
9           policies concerning public school systems' handling of  
10          sexual violence issues, to the extent that they relate  
11          to sexual abuse prevention education;
- 12          (6) Resources needed to implement a systemwide program for  
13          child sexual abuse prevention education; and
- 14          (7) Updates to laws or policies that assist in the  
15          implementation of a statewide program for child sexual  
16          abuse prevention education.
- 17          (g) The task force shall submit a report of its findings  
18          and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the  
19          legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of  
20          the regular session of 2017, and a follow-up report, including



1 any additional proposed legislation, no later than twenty days  
2 prior to the convening of the regular session of 2018.

3 (h) The task force shall cease to exist on June 30, 2018.

4 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
5 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much  
6 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2016-2017 for the  
7 operations of the Erin's Law task force.

8 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the legislature  
9 for the purposes of this Act.

10 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2060.





**Report Title:**

Erin's Law Task Force; Education; Sexual Abuse Prevention;  
Appropriation

**Description:**

Creates and appropriates funds for Erin's Law Task Force to review policies, programs, and curricula for educating public school students about sexual abuse prevention, and report recommendations for the establishment of a program to educate public school children on sexual abuse prevention through age-appropriate curricula. (HB1787 HD2)

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