
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO EDUCATION.

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

1 SECTION 1. The Children's Advocacy Centers of Illinois,
2 Illinois Coalition Against Sexual Assault, and Prevent Child
3 Abuse Illinois collaborated to create "Erin's Law". Erin Merryn
4 was raped and molested for six and a half years by a neighbor
5 and a family member. Erin began a crusade her senior year of
6 high school in 2004 to end the silence and shame around sexual
7 abuse. Erin's Law has been passed in twenty-six states and an
8 additional seventeen states have introduced it in recent years.
9 Erin's mission is to shatter the silence and stigma around
10 sexual abuse, and to educate children and empower them to
11 recognize and to report abuse.

12 The legislature finds that schools can provide an
13 opportunity to educate young students on sexual abuse prevention
14 and give students awareness and a voice if someone is violating
15 them. Without receiving this education most child victims will
16 be repeatedly abused for years as often the only message they
17 receive comes from their abuser threatening them into silence.



1 The purpose of this Act is to educate public school
2 students on sexual abuse prevention through an age-appropriate
3 curriculum.

4 SECTION 2. Chapter 302A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
5 amended by adding a new section to part II, subpart B, to be
6 appropriately designated and to read as follows:

7 "§302A- Sexual abuse prevention instructional program;
8 guidelines. (a) The broad guidelines of the sexual abuse
9 prevention instructional program shall be to:

10 (1) Educate children in grades pre-kindergarten through
11 twelve in public schools on sexual abuse prevention
12 through age-appropriate curriculum through role plays,
13 discussions, activities, and books;

14 (2) Give children the tools to speak up and tell if anyone
15 has ever touched them inappropriately rather than keep
16 it a secret; and

17 (3) Educate children on safe touch, unsafe touch, safe
18 secrets, unsafe secrets, how to get away, and how to
19 report an incident immediately.

20 (b) All public schools shall establish a sexual abuse
21 prevention instructional program for students in grades



1 pre-kindergarten through twelve, consistent with subsection (a).
2 The content of instruction shall be at the discretion of the
3 board; provided that the instruction shall include:

4 (1) Techniques to teach children to recognize child sexual
5 abuse, equip them with skills to reduce their
6 vulnerability, and encourage them to report the abuse;

7 (2) At least four sessions of instruction to reinforce the
8 concepts learned in the program;

9 (3) Sessions conducted at least annually, building on
10 skills learned the previous year;

11 (4) Developmentally appropriate instruction for each grade
12 level;

13 (5) Involvement of students as active learning
14 participants, including discussions, modeling, and
15 role playing;

16 (6) A capacity to be delivered by a wide range of
17 personnel and professionals, including teachers,
18 school counselors, outside agency prevention
19 educators, and the like; provided that the personnel
20 and professionals should have a thorough knowledge of



- 1 child sexual abuse, including how to respond
- 2 appropriately to sexual abuse disclosures;
- 3 (7) An evaluation component with measurable outcomes;
- 4 (8) Instruction that is culturally sensitive and adaptable
- 5 for use within varying school contexts, including age,
- 6 race, and special needs;
- 7 (9) An evidence-based curriculum, to the extent possible;
- 8 (10) A professional training component for administrators,
- 9 teachers, and other school personnel on talking to
- 10 students about child sexual abuse prevention, effects
- 11 of child sexual abuse on children, handling of sexual
- 12 abuse disclosures, and mandated reporting; and
- 13 (11) A component that encourages parental involvement
- 14 within the child sexual abuse prevention program.
- 15 This component should inform parents about child
- 16 sexual abuse topics, including characteristics of
- 17 offenders, grooming behaviors, and how to discuss this
- 18 topic with children."

19 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

20



1 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2017.

2

INTRODUCED BY:



JAN 20 2017

By Request



H.B. NO. 710

Report Title:

Education; Sexual Abuse Prevention; Erin's Law

Description:

Establishes a sexual abuse prevention instructional program for public schools, modeled after Erin's Law. Sets out guidelines of instruction.

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.

