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Testimony of **Ford Fuchigami**
Administrative Director, Office of the Governor

Before the
House Committee on Health & Human Services
January 25, 2018
09:00 a.m., Conference Room 329

In consideration of
House Bill No. 1895
RELATING TO HEALTH

Chair Mizuno , Vice Chair Kobayashi, and committee members:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments in Support for **House Bill 1895**.

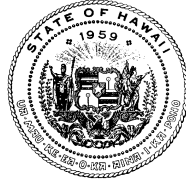
The Office of the Governor supports the intent of the measure, provided its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities as indicated in the Governor's Supplemental Budget.

We appreciate the attention the legislature and this committee is paying to the need for additional resources to help the Department of Health complete initial certifications and recertification surveys for end-stage renal dialysis centers (ESRD) facilities.

It is important to highlight that despite the requirements imposed by Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to conduct surveys at regular intervals for existing and initial surveys for new facilities, existing facilities with overdue surveys may continue to operate and bill Medicare and private insurance for services.

Our office remains supportive of the Governor's supplemental budget request, though we understand the concern raised about this issue and are happy to continue to working with the Department of Health and the Legislature to find solutions to the current circumstances.

We appreciate your attention and will be available to answer your questions, should you have any at this time.



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P. O. Box 3378
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

**Testimony COMMENTING on H.B. 1905
RELATING TO COMPREHENSIVE SEXUALITY HEALTH EDUCATION**

REPRESENTATIVE JOHN MIZUNO, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Hearing Date: January 25, 2018

Room Number: 329

- 1 **Fiscal Implications:** There are no fiscal implications for the Department of Health (DOH).
- 2 **Department Testimony:** The Department respectfully offers comments on H.B. 1905,
3 specifically on proposed amendments to Section 321-11.1, Hawaii Revised Statutes. The DOH
4 currently provides medically accurate and factual information to youth and other individuals in
5 both clinical and community based settings. DOH programs always encourage youth to
6 communicate with their parents, guardians or other trusted adults about sexuality and intimate
7 relations. Sexuality health education information provided through DOH services and programs
8 to youth is age appropriate, includes education on abstinence, contraception, and prevention of
9 unintended pregnancy and sexually transmitted disease, including human immunodeficiency
10 virus. The DOH also funds programs which support youth in forming healthy relationships and
11 to be safe from violence, coercion, and intimidation. Most importantly, DOH programs directed
12 at youth offer opportunities for them to develop skills in critical thinking, problem solving and
13 decision making and support the elimination of stress in their lives. Amendments to the current
14 statute are not necessary since the DOH currently provides programs and services with the
15 proposed components. The DOH defers to the Department of Education and Board of Education
16 on the portions of this bill related to the DOE.
- 17 Thank you for this opportunity to testify.
- 18 **Offered Amendments: None.**



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

Date: 01/25/2018
Time: 09:00 AM
Location: 329
Committee: House Health and Human Services

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Dr. Christina M. Kishimoto, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: HB 1905 RELATING TO HEALTH.

Purpose of Bill: Adds specific requirements to Hawaii's existing sexuality health education law. Requires the BOE and DOE to collaborate to provide curricula information to the public. Requires students to be excused from the provided instruction upon written request by a parent or guardian.

Department's Position:

The Department of Education (Department) respectfully offers comments on HB1905.

As a public school system, the Hawaii State Department of Education follows statutory requirements, Board of Education policies, and nationally recognized guidance are utilized to inform curriculum development and adoption.

Schools provide a comprehensive sexual health education that follows the requirements set forth in the Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) §321-11.1 and the Hawaii State Board of Education (Board) Policy 103-5 Sexual Health Education that states *"In order to help students make decisions that promote healthy behaviors, the Department of Education shall provide sexual health education to include age appropriate, medically accurate, health education that: (1) Includes education on abstinence, contraception, and methods of infection prevention to prevent unintended pregnancy and sexually transmitted infection, including human immunodeficiency virus; (2) Helps students develop relationships and communication skills to form healthy relationships that are based on mutual respect and affection and are free from violence, coercion and intimidation; (3) Helps students develop skills in critical thinking, problem solving, decision making and stress management to make healthy decisions about sexuality and relationships; (4) Encourages student to communicate with their parents, guardians and/or other trusted adults about sexuality; and (5) Informs students of available community resources. Instruction will emphasize that abstention from sexual intercourse is the surest way to prevent unintended pregnancies, sexually transmitted infections such as HIV/AIDS, and consequent emotional distress.*

A description of the curriculum utilized by the school shall be made available to parents and shall be posted on the school's website prior to the start of any instruction. A student shall be excused from sexual health instruction only upon the prior written request of the student's parent or legal guardian. A student may not be subject to disciplinary action, academic penalty or other sanction if the student's parent or legal guardian makes such written request."

This policy was amended on 06/21/2016.

Substantively, the Department would like to share efforts that are currently underway to address sexual health education:

1) The Department has identified and made public a list of appropriate sexual health education curricula for middle/intermediate and high school students.

2) Resources are available to parents, student, teachers, and the public on our Department website at:

<http://www.hawaiipublicschools.org/TeachingAndLearning/HealthAndNutrition/sexed/Pages/default.aspx>

Sexual health education is a component of our efforts to support student success. As there are existing policies and resources in place to address this area, the department respectfully suggests that this measure is not necessary at this time.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.

The Hawaii State Department of Education seeks to advance the goals of the Strategic Plan which is focused on student success, staff success, and successful systems of support. This is achieved through targeted work around three impact strategies: school design, student voice, and teacher collaboration. Detailed information is available at www.hawaiipublicschools.org.



To: Hawaii State House Committee on Health and Human Services
Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, Jan. 25, 2018, 9:00 a.m.
Place: Hawaii State Capitol, Rm. 329
Re: Testimony of Planned Parenthood of Hawaii in Support of H.B. 1905

Dear Chair Mizuno and Members of the Committee on Health and Human Services,

Planned Parenthood of Hawaii writes in support of H.B. 1905, as it will promote the health and safety of our youth by ensuring that public school students receive comprehensive sexual health education. Our failure to do so has resulted in poor health outcomes for Hawaii youth. Currently, Hawaii's teens rank low in the nation for condom use and for use of any type of birth control to prevent pregnancy during intercourse. The consequences are severe — in addition to the numerous societal costs, Hawaii's high teen pregnancy rate costs Hawaii taxpayers around \$32 million per year.¹

Comprehensive sex education covers the wide array of topics that affect sexuality and sexual health. It is grounded in evidence-based, peer-reviewed science. Its goal is to promote health and well-being in a way that is developmentally appropriate. It includes information and communication skills building as well as values exploration. Ideally, sex education in school is an integrated process that builds upon itself year after year, is initiated in kindergarten, and is provided through grade 12.

Although parents and guardians are the primary sex educators of their children, children also receive messages about sexual health from many other sources - some of which may have more negative than positive impact. Schools and other community-based organizations can be important partners with parents to provide young people with accurate and developmentally appropriate sex education.

The goals of comprehensive sex education are to help young people gain a positive view of sexual health and to provide them with developmentally appropriate knowledge and skills so that they can make healthy decisions about their sex lives now and in the future. Medically accurate sex education is an investment in Hawaii children's future and well-being. Our "return on investment" could be a generation of young people who have heard more helpful messages about sexual health than the provocative media images and/or silences they currently witness. It could be a generation of women and men comfortable in their own skin; able to make well-informed, responsible decisions; form healthy relationships; and take care of their bodies.

Public opinion polls show that most Americans support sex education. Parents and students want sex education to be taught in our schools. In fact, Hawaii residents have shown that they support sexual health education in our public schools. Ninety-seven percent (97%) of participants stated that it was important for Hawaii public schools to include sexual health education in their curriculum in a 2012 survey conducted by SMS Research. While only half of the participants felt prepared to talk about sexual health with their youth, the majority of participants didn't feel that parents or schools were providing a sufficient amount of sexual health information. A majority also believed that education on most sexual health topics should begin in the middle schools, with some topics (such as anatomy, puberty, and sexual abuse) beginning in the elementary schools.

¹ See more at www.thenationalcampaign.org. States with higher teen pregnancy rates than Hawaii include Delaware, Nevada, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Texas, Mississippi and New Mexico.

Comprehensive sexual health education is a systematic and layered education process that supports youth and their families and helps them acquire the sexual health-related information, skills, and motivation necessary to act in ways that are congruent with their values. While parents and guardians are their children's primary sex educators, the majority of them feel that they need support and/or professional expertise to lead the way. Schools, as well as faith groups and community-based organizations, all have roles to play. In fact, the nature of our education system in America puts schools in the ideal position to take the lead in this process.

Ideally, sexual health education would be taught each year in our schools from kindergarten through 12th grade. Like all school subjects, the information and skills that are taught are age-appropriate, reflect best-practice, and build on the previous year's learning. According to the late Dr. Douglas Kirby, senior research scientist for ETR Associates in Scotts Valley, CA, and a nonpartisan expert on the effectiveness of school and community programs in the reduction of adolescent sexual risk-taking behaviors, (Public Health Reports, 190 (1997), 339-360) effective sex education:

- uses behavioral goals, teaching methods, and resources that are age-appropriate, developmentally appropriate, and culturally competent
- is based on theoretical approaches that have been proven to be effective
- takes place over sufficient time to cover necessary topics and skills
- employs a variety of teaching methodologies that present the content in ways that make it relevant to the student
- provides basic, accurate information about the risks of unprotected sexual intercourse and how to avoid unprotected sexual intercourse
- includes activities that address peer pressure and cultural pressure
- practices decision making, communication, negotiation, and refusal skills
- utilizes teachers who are well-trained, comfortable, and believe in the program

Hawaii's youth deserve the best and most effective health education and H.B. 1905 will go far to ensure that students have the information and tools they need to make healthy, safe and responsible decisions.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Laurie Temple Field
Hawaii Legislative Director

HB-1905

Submitted on: 1/23/2018 10:25:40 AM

Testimony for HHS on 1/25/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Judith Clark	Hawaii Youth Services Network	Support	Yes

Comments:



46-063 Emepela Pl. #U101 Kaneohe, HI 96744 · (808) 679-7454 · Kris Coffield · Co-founder/Executive Director

TESTIMONY FOR HOUSE BILL 1905, RELATING TO HEALTH

House Committee on Health and Human Services

Hon. John Mizuno, Chair

Hon. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

Thursday, January 25, 2018, 9:00 AM

State Capitol, Conference Room 329

Honorable Chair Mizuno and committee members:

I am Kris Coffield, representing IMUAlliance, a nonpartisan political advocacy organization that currently boasts over 400 members. On behalf of our members, we offer this testimony in support of House Bill 1905, relating to health.

This bill codifies into law medically-accurate sexual education guidelines, including the provision of information about healthy and nonviolent relationships. Access to this information directly impacts our youth's susceptibility to sex trafficking, since traffickers “groom” underage victims for commercial sexual exploitation through a variety of violent and nonviolent means.

Education is key to preventing sex trafficking. As you're undoubtedly aware, sexual slavery is prevalent on Hawai'i's shores. Approximately 120,000 advertisements for Hawai'i-based prostitution are posted online each year, many of which feature school age children. Hawai'i also hosts roughly 150 high-risk sex trafficking establishments, which are places where IMUAlliance and our strategic partners have documented multiple cases of prostitution within a single month.

It must also be noted the average age of entrance into commercial sexual exploitation, both locally and nationally, is 13-years-old, the age of an average eighth-grader. Sadly, Moanalua, Mililani, and Campbell High Schools were home to a sex trafficking ring, in 2015, involving over a dozen teenage girls, culminating in the prosecution of three men for promoting prostitution.

We must protect our keiki. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

Sincerely,
Kris Coffield
Executive Director
IMUAlliance

HB-1905

Submitted on: 1/24/2018 5:40:56 PM

Testimony for HHS on 1/25/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Marci Lopes	Domestic Violence Action Center	Support	No

Comments:



January 24, 2018

To: Hawai'i State House Committee on Health and Human Services
Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, January 25, 2018 (9:00 a.m.)
Place: Hawai'i State Capitol, Rm. 329
Re: Testimony of American Association of University Women –
Hawai'i in **SUPPORT of H.B. 1905**, relating to health and
comprehensive sexuality health education

Dear Chair Mizuno and Members of the Committee on Health and Human Services,

I am grateful for this opportunity to testify in **support of H.B. 1905**, relating to health and comprehensive sexuality health education.

My testimony is on behalf of the approximately 400 members of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) in Hawai'i, who list youth access to comprehensive sexuality health education as an important current concern.

I have taught for the University of Hawai'i for many years. Over the years, I have had a number of female students disclose to me their unplanned pregnancies, which have typically disrupted their university careers and future potential earnings. This situation seems far more common in Hawai'i than in previous states and countries where I have taught.

I also teach a 4th-year undergraduate Gender Violence course fairly regularly. Discussions in these classes have made me aware of the poor understanding that Hawai'i -educated students have of their bodies, reproductive functions, and sexual health in general. It seems a major disservice to the elementary and secondary students of this state that they continue to be denied accurate, medically-informed data about human sexuality.

When we buy a car, we assume that we also get an owner's manual. Surely, our students graduating from high school, deserve to graduate with some understanding of their own bodies.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely

Susan J. Wurtzburg, Ph.D.

Policy Chair

HB-1905

Submitted on: 1/24/2018 10:28:47 PM

Testimony for HHS on 1/25/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ann S Freed	Hawaii Women's Coalition	Support	No

Comments:



The Hawaii Women's Coalition is in strong support of this measure. Low use of condoms, high rates of teen pregnancy and STDs among our youth are a direct result of misinformation, disinformation and lack of medically accurate information given to them. We strongly encourage this committee to pass this bill forward.

Mahalo,

Ann S. Freed

Co-Chair, Hawaii Women's Coalition