



STATE OF HAWAII
STATE COUNCIL
ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
1010 RICHARDS STREET, Room 122
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
TELEPHONE: (808) 586-8100 FAX: (808) 586-7543

March 1, 2022

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair
House Committee on Finance
State Capitol
State of Hawai'i
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Representative Luke and Committee Members:

SUBJECT: HB1697 HD1 Relating to Sexual Health Education

The Hawaii State Council on Developmental Disabilities **STRONGLY SUPPORTS HB1697 HD1** which requires requires DOE to provide comprehensive training for teachers and educational officers on sexual health topics that include positive and accurate representations of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer or questioning, intersex, asexual, other sexual orientations and gender identities, persons of color, and disability communities to destigmatize and promote sexual health. Requires sexual health education programs to include similar sexual health topics to destigmatize and promote sexual health.

Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (I/DD) have been historically a stigmatized group regarding sexuality and sex education. The I/DD community has fought to become full contributing members of our communities. Hawaii ended our institutionalization of individuals with I/DD in the late 90s. While individuals with I/DD are becoming more integrated into our communities there are still many misunderstandings and stigmatizations left around I/DD. Sex is one of the largest stigmas left surround individuals with I/DD even though, individuals with I/DD are at high risk of sexual violence and sexual exploitation.

Individuals with I/DD are stigmatized as being “child-like” and not considered sexual beings. This inaccurate perception can be harmful to individuals with I/DD as they are never taught appropriate behaviors and are never taught how to express themselves sexual in an appropriate manner. Individuals with I/DD who have autism are seven times more likely to be a part of the LGBTQIA+ community.

The Council graciously thanks the legislators for accepting our recommended language to HB1697 HD1, by adding “and disability” to the communities to destigmatize and promote sexual health.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony **strongly supporting of HB1697.**

Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair
HB1697 HD1 Relating to Sexual Health Education
March 1, 2022
Page 2

Sincerely,



Daintry Bartoldus
Executive Administrator



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

Date: 03/01/2022

Time: 12:30 PM

Location: 308 Via Videoconference

Committee: House Finance

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Keith T. Hayashi, Interim Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: HB 1697, HD1 RELATING TO SEXUAL HEALTH EDUCATION.

Purpose of Bill: Requires DOE to provide comprehensive training for teachers and educational officers on sexual health topics that include positive and accurate representations of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer or questioning, intersex, asexual, other sexual orientations and gender identities, persons of color, and disability communities to destigmatize and promote sexual health. Requires sexual health education programs to include similar sexual health topics to destigmatize and promote sexual health. Effective 7/1/2050. (HD1)

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) supports the intent of SB 1697, HD1 and respectfully offers comments. This bill strives to create and maintain safe, affirming and inclusive learning environments where students can thrive, be successful and mature into their full potential. In line with this intent, the Department remains committed to delivering relevant sexual health education to secondary students as a component of students' total well-being.

To implement this measure, teachers and school staff would need professional development. With the restoration of the funding for positions and basic services that were reduced for fiscal year 2023 due to the impact of COVID-19 and the focus on stabilization of funding, the Department respectfully requests an appropriation in the amount of \$2,188,802.08 for the initial planning and delivery of professional development. Funding shall be used to cover substitute teachers to allow teachers to participate in training as well as for the cost to contract trainers should this measure move forward.

Currently, the Department implements Hawaii Board of Education Policy 103-5 Sexual Health Education. This includes:

- Helping students develop skills in critical thinking, problem-solving, decision-making, and stress management to make healthy decisions about sexuality and relationships; and
- Encouraging students to communicate with their parents, guardians and/or other trusted adults about sexuality.

Information about sexual health education, including a list of vetted instructional materials for sexual health education and sexual violence prevention education, is available on the Department's public web page at:

<https://www.hawaiipublicschools.org/TeachingAndLearning/HealthAndNutrition/sexed>

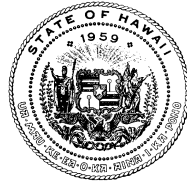
The Department adheres to federal and state non-discrimination laws, including Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972 (Title IX) which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex and ensures protections in schools receiving federal funds. Title IX's prohibition of discrimination on the basis of sex includes discrimination on the basis of gender identity.

Recognizing the importance of validating students' gender identity, guidance has been developed to support transgender students. The guidance aligns to Board of Education Policy 305-10, prohibiting discrimination and harassment against students on the basis of gender identity and gender expression, and Board of Education Policy E-3, Na Hopena A'o, encouraging the Department to work together as a system that includes everyone in the broader community to develop competencies that strengthen a sense of belonging, responsibility, excellence, aloha, total well-being, and Hawaii.

The Department is also a member of the Hawaii State Department of Health's Sexual and Gender Minority Working Group and remains committed to this ongoing collaborative partnership to address health-related issues for sexual and gender minority students.

The Department will continue to utilize the Youth Risk Behavior Survey, School Health Profiles Survey, and local publications like the Hawaii Sexual and Gender Minority Health Report to inform policies and programming and provide guidance for evidence-based and evidence-informed practices that support the academic, behavioral, social emotional and mental health needs of LGBTQ+ student populations.

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



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

Testimony COMMENTING on HB1697, HD1
RELATING TO SEXUAL HEALTH EDUCATION

REPRESENTATIVE SYLVIA LUKE, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Hearing Date: 03-01-22

Room Number: Via VideoConference

1 **Department Position:** The Department of Health comments on this bill to provide
2 comprehensive sexual health education to students and training for teachers and educational
3 officers.

4 According to the 2019 Youth Risk Behavior Survey, in Hawaii over 10% of high school
5 students and approximately 9% of middle school students identify as LGBT.

6 Youth who feel that the content of sexual health education is relevant to their lives are more
7 likely to be adherent to recommendations about using sexual health precautionary measures than
8 those who do not feel that sexual health education addresses their personal situations, and thus
9 are more protected from STIs than those who do not feel acknowledged, included and addressed
10 in sexual health education. LGBT youth may not feel that education provided in school about sex
11 and reproductive health apply to them or include them, as one study found that LGBT youth are
12 five times more likely to search on the internet for information about sexuality, much more likely
13 to search for health information and information on STIs than heterosexual and cisgender youth
14 (GLSEN, CiPHR, & CCRC (2013). Out online: The experiences of lesbian, gay, bisexual and
15 transgender youth on the Internet. New York: GLSEN.

16 [https://www.glsen.org/sites/default/files/2020-01/Out Online Full Report 2013.pdf](https://www.glsen.org/sites/default/files/2020-01/Out_Online_Full_Report_2013.pdf)

1 “In addition to reduced homophobic attitudes, research demonstrates that curricula that are
2 inclusive of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and expressions, across areas of study, and
3 most strongly within [Comprehensive Sexual Education] CSE, reduce homophobic bullying and
4 harassment, and increase safety for LGBTQ students.” Homophobic bullying and harassment are
5 risk factors for LGBTQ youth mental health issues including depression, anxiety and suicidality.
6 SIECUS reports that “Beyond lowering rates of unwanted teen pregnancy and STI transmission,
7 CSE has both psychological and physical benefits. LGBTQ+ youth are 23% less likely to attempt
8 suicide when schools include education on LGBTQ+ subjects or people” ([https://siecus.org/wp-](https://siecus.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/CSE-Federal-Factsheet-Sept-2021-Update-2.pdf)
9 [content/uploads/2021/10/CSE-Federal-Factsheet-Sept-2021-Update-2.pdf](https://siecus.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/CSE-Federal-Factsheet-Sept-2021-Update-2.pdf)).

10 **Offered Amendments:** None.

11 Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

12

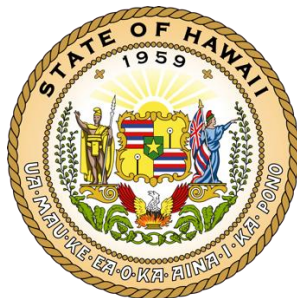
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‘O kēia ‘ōlelo hō’ike no ke
Komikina Kūlana Olakino o Nā Wāhine

Testimony on behalf of the
Hawai‘i State Commission on the Status of Women

In Support of H.B. 1697 HD1

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair, and Honorable Members,

The Hawai‘i State Commission on the Status of Women supports H.B. 1697 HD1, which would require the DOE to provide comprehensive sex education that teaches gender and sexuality diversity and combats gender stereotypes. This measure is one of the single most important actions we can take to prevent violence against women, preserve girls’ self-esteem, and create a more egalitarian society.

According to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), a gender stereotype” is a generalized view or preconception about attributes, or characteristics that are or ought to be possessed by women and men or the roles that are or should be performed by men and women.” Gender stereotypes are pervasive and result in real world harm: they invalidate the existence of gender diverse people, limit men and women, and create an artificial hierarchy of genders.

The end of gender-based violence begins in the classroom.

Accordingly, the Commissions asks that you pass H.B. 1697 HD1.

Sincerely,
Khara Jabola-Carolus

HB-1697-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2022 5:02:29 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/1/2022 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Mike Golojuch, Sr.	Rainbow Family 808	Support	No

Comments:

Rainbow Family 808 strongly supports HB1697, However, we want the effective date to be no later than July 1, 2022. All students need healthy and science-based sexual education. Please pass.

Mike Golojuch, Sr., Secretary/Board Member, Rainbow Family 808

HB-1697-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2022 5:38:21 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/1/2022 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Michael Golojuch Jr	Stonewall Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii	Support	Yes

Comments:

Aloha Representatives,

The Stonewall Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i (formerly the LGBT Caucus) Hawai'i's oldest and largest policy and political LGBTQIA+ focused organization fully supports HB 1697 HD 1.

We hope you all will support this important piece of legislation.

Mahalo nui loa,

Michael Golojuch, Jr.
Chair and SCC Representative
Stonewall Caucus for the DPH

North Shore Ko‘olau Diversity Collective

26 February 2022

Members of the House Committee on Finance:

As a grassroots network striving to bring people together across O‘ahu's north and windward shores to create a more welcoming, inclusive, and supportive environment for LGBTQ+ individuals, we write to urge **Strong Support for HB1697 HD1**.

We believe that educators in our region need and deserve the tools and training that will help them ensure that all young people have positive and accurate representations of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer or questioning, intersex, asexual, other sexual orientations and gender identities, persons of color, and disability communities to de-stigmatize and promote sexual health.

As a region without legislative allies or advocates, and in which the needs, concerns, and voices of the LGBTQ+ community are still often overlooked, ignored, and rendered invisible, we are counting on you to help secure the health and safety of all struggling to survive and thrive on these shores.

Thank you for your attention to these concerns,

*Joe Wilson, Liz Rago, Michelle Johnson Blimes,
Hao Le, Bethany Berry-Weiss, Kunane Dreier, Torrey Lock*
Organizing Committee



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1697 HD1

TO: Chair Luke, Vice-Chair Yamashita, & Members – House Committee on Finance
FROM: Trisha Kajimura
Deputy Director - Community
DATE: March 1, 2022 at 12:30 PM

Hawai'i Health & Harm Reduction Center (HHRC) **supports** HB 1697 HD1 which requires the Department of Education to provide comprehensive training for teachers and educational officers on sexual health topics that include positive and accurate representations of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer or questioning, intersex, asexual and other sexual orientations and gender identities and persons of color communities, to destigmatize and promote sexual health.

HHRC's mission is to *reduce harm, promote health, create wellness and fight stigma in Hawai'i and the Pacific*. We focus our efforts on those disproportionately affected by social determinants of health, including but not limited to: people living with and/or affected by HIV, hepatitis, substance use, and the transgender, LGBTQ and Native Hawaiian communities. We strive to be an inclusive, safe workplace that respects all sexual orientations and gender identities.

Systemic discrimination, bullying, harassment and microaggressions against sexual and gender minorities are all too common. Access to accurate information will help all students seek appropriate healthcare in the future and destigmatize minority communities. Please ensure that our educators are supported with the training they need to ensure our young people get the accurate and positive representations of sexual health they deserve.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

HAWAII YOUTH SERVICES NETWORK

677 Ala Moana Boulevard, Suite 904 Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Phone: (808) 489-9549

Web site: <http://www.hysn.org> E-mail: info@hysn.org

Carole Gruskin, President

Judith F. Clark, Executive Director

Bay Clinic

Big Brothers Big Sisters Hawaii

Big Island Substance Abuse Council

Bobby Benson Center

Child and Family Service

Coalition for a Drug Free Hawaii

Collins Consulting, LLC

Domestic Violence Action Center

EPIC, Inc.

Family Programs Hawaii

Family Support Hawaii

Friends of the Children's Justice Center of Maui

Get Ready Hawai'i

Hale Kipa, Inc.

Hale 'Opio Kauai, Inc.

Hawaii Children's Action Network

Hawaii Health & Harm

Reduction Center

Ho'ola Na Pua

Kahi Mohala

Kokua Kalihi Valley

Kokua Ohana Aloha (KOA)

Maui Youth and Family Services

Na Pu'uwai Molokai Native

Hawaiian Health Care Systems

P.A.R.E.N.T.S., Inc.

Parents and Children Together (PACT)

PHOCUSED

PFLAG – Kona Big Island

Planned Parenthood of the

Great Northwest and

Hawaiian Islands

Residential Youth Services

& Empowerment (RYSE)

Salvation Army Family

Intervention Services

Sex Abuse Treatment Center

Susannah Wesley Community

Center

The Catalyst Group

February 26, 2022

To: Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair,
And members of the Committee on Finance

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1697 HD 1 RELATING TO SEXUAL HEALTH EDUCATION

Hawaii Youth Services Network, a statewide coalition of youth-serving organizations, supports HB 1697 Relating to Sexual Health Education.

Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and questioning (LGBTQ) youth and youth from people of color communities need and deserve to learn in settings that are inclusive of their experiences and that give them the education necessary to stay safe and healthy.

Sex education can be one of the few sources of reliable information on sexuality and sexual health for youth. Hundreds of studies have shown that well-designed and well-implemented sex education can reduce risk behavior and support positive sexual health outcomes among teens, such as reducing teen pregnancy and sexually transmitted infection rates.¹

For LGBTQ youth to experience comparable health benefits to their non-LGBTQ peers, sex education programs must be LGBTQ-inclusive. Inclusive programs are those that help youth understand gender identity and sexual orientation with age-appropriate and medically accurate information; incorporate positive examples of LGBTQ individuals, romantic relationships and families; emphasize the need for protection during sex for people of all identities; and dispel common myths and stereotypes about behavior and identity.

Similarly, youth of color and students with disabilities need sexual health education that is culturally appropriate. For example, Hawaii Youth Services Network has developed several sexual health videos that address the risk and protective factors for young people in the Pacific Islands that have helped to reduce sexual risk behavior.

In order to provide high quality sexual health education, it is critical to have teachers/facilitators who are highly trained and comfortable presenting the subject matter. Hawaii's DOE teachers have not had

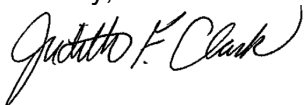
access to the professional development they need for competency in this area.

At the 2021 Hawaii Children and Youth Summit, this was the top priority chosen by youth for legislative action

Implementing the provisions of this bill will help our youth grow up safe, healthy, and ready to succeed by reducing the risks of unplanned pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Judith F. Clark". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J'.

Judith F. Clark, MPH
Executive Director

HB-1697-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2022 8:23:42 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/1/2022 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Brett Kulbis	Honolulu County Republican Party	Oppose	No

Comments:

Honolulu County Republican Party opposes this bill.

For all the reasons addressed by the opposition testimony submitted on this bill.

HB-1697-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2022 7:05:42 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/1/2022 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Rachel Kuenzi	Planned Parenthood Alliance Advocates	Support	No

Comments:

Planned Parenthood Alliance Advocates writes in support of HB 1697. Sexual health education gives students the knowledge and skills to make safe and healthy decisions about their behavior. This bill will ensure that quality, inclusive education is provided by requiring teacher training and meeting the needs of all youth.



Hawaii
Children's Action Network Speaks!
Building a unified voice for Hawaii's children

Hawai'i Children's Action Network Speaks! is a nonpartisan 501c4 nonprofit committed to advocating for children and their families. Our core issues are safety, health, and education.

To: Representative Luke, Chair
Representative Yamashita, Vice Chair
House Committee on Finance

Re: **HB 1697 HD1 – Relating to Sexual Health Education**
March 1, 2022, 12:30 PM

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Yamashita, and committee members,

On behalf of Hawai'i Children's Action Network Speaks!, I am writing in SUPPORT of HB 1697 HD1, relating to sexual health education. This bill would require DOE to provide comprehensive training for teachers and educational officers on sexual health topics that include positive and accurate representations of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer or questioning, intersex, asexual, and other sexual orientations and gender identities and persons of color communities, to destigmatize and promote sexual health.

At the 2021 Hawaii Children and Youth Summit,¹ the participating youth from across the state proposed and chose comprehensive sexual health training for educators and other educational officers as their top priority for legislative action.

The youth expressed concern that when LGBTQ youth are not mentioned or stigmatized in sexual health education at school, that can lead to higher risks and poorer health and academic outcomes for them. Such exclusion is likely a contributing factor to the finding of a national youth mental health survey that 40 percent of LGBTQ young people “seriously considered attempting suicide in the past twelve months, with more than half of transgender and nonbinary youth having seriously considered suicide.”²

The Centers for Disease Control lists six characteristics of quality sexual health education programs, which include: “Are taught by well-qualified and highly-trained school staff... [and] Address the health needs of all students, including the needs of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning youth.”³ The CDC also points out that students who participate in well-designed sexual health education are more likely to delay sex, increase their safe sex practices, and improve their academic performance.

This bill would move the DOE closer to adhering to CDC's recommendations for quality sexual health education programs, and in turn help improve the health and academic outcomes of our LGBTQ youth. For these reasons, HCAN Speaks! respectfully requests the Committee support this measure.

Thank you,
Kathleen Algire
Director of Early Learning and Health Policy

¹ <https://www.hawaiicys.org/>

² <https://www.thetrevorproject.org/survey-2020/>

³ <https://www.cdc.gov/healthyouth/whatworks/what-works-sexual-health-education.htm>

Comments:

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Yamashita and Members of the House Committee on Finance: The non-profit, educational advocate organization of PEACE Global, is testifying in opposition to HB1697 as written. While the intent of this bill to promote broader teacher training on sex education topics appears to be commendable, the details of how this is to be accomplished are significantly absent. We believe these details are sufficiently important as to make an expenditure of public funds on this measure premature at this time. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Shirley Kinoshita
Executive Director
PEACE Global

HB-1697-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2022 9:28:14 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/1/2022 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
distin Barca	'Ohana o Kaua'i	Oppose	No

Comments:

Oppose . Oppose . Oppose!! This is insane .

HB-1697-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2022 9:55:39 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/1/2022 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
PPC member name goes here	AAUW of Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:



Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Yamashita and members,

We cannot afford to keep playing Russian Roulette with how our Keiki get educated about the most basic of human drives, sexuality. The DOE has too often abdicated it's responsibility in this regard. According to our anecdotal evidence, the Department is not even enforcing the existing law.

Specifically, according to youth advocates and others, Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and questioning (LGBTQ) youth and youth from people of color communities need and deserve to learn in settings that are inclusive of their experiences and that give them the education necessary to stay safe and healthy.

Sex education can be one of the few sources of reliable information on sexuality and sexual health for youth. Hundreds of studies have shown that well-designed and well-implemented sex education can reduce risk behavior and support positive sexual health outcomes among teens, such as reducing teen pregnancy and sexually transmitted infection rates.

Please pass this bill,

Mahalo,

Ann S. Freed

Public Policy Committee, AAUW of Hawaii

publicpolicy-hi@aauw.net

The American Association of University Women (AAUW) of Hawaii is an all volunteer, statewide chapter of a national organization and is made up of six branches: Hilo, Honolulu, Kaua'i, Kona, Maui, and Windward Oahu. UH Hilo, UH Manoa, UH Maui College, and Windward Community College are also AAUW partners. AAUW's mission is to advance gender equity for equal opportunities in education, at workplace and for economic security, and in leadership.



Aloha for All is Good Business

March 1, 2022

RE: FULL SUPPORT for HB1697 HD1 Relating to Sexual Health Education

Dear Representatives,

The Hawaii Rainbow Chamber of Commerce has a mission to educate and advocate for the advancement of equality of economic and societal opportunities for Hawaii's LGBTQ+ community.

We defer to the number of expert testifiers on this bill previously submitted, especially from the National Association of School Psychologists for their support and for a more detailed and comprehensive statement of the ethical obligations of their members to:

“ensure all youth with diverse sexual orientations, gender identities, and/or gender expressions, are able to develop and express their personal identities in a school climate that is safe, accepting, and respectful of all persons and free from discrimination, harassment, violence, and abuse. Specifically, NASP’s ethical guidelines require school psychologists to promote fairness and justice, help to cultivate safe and welcoming school climates, and work to identify and reform both social and system-level patterns of injustice (NASP, 2010, pp. 11–12). NASP further asserts all youth are entitled to equal opportunities to participate in and benefit from affirming and supportive educational and mental health services within schools....

“Being LGBTQ+ in and of itself does not put youth at greater risk for deleterious outcomes; however, being LGBTQ+ in heterosexist, homophobic, sexist, and transphobic environments in which youth are more likely to experience harassment, bullying, discrimination, and oppression can negatively impact LGBTQ+ youth’s developmental trajectories....

Within schools, higher levels of victimization for LGBTQ+ youth are associated with poorer school attendance, lower grade point averages, fewer plans for postsecondary education, lower self-esteem, higher rates of depression, greater substance abuse, and higher risk for suicide (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2013; Kosciw et al., 2016). In contrast, when LGBTQ+ youth develop in more positive school climates which include various supports such as a Gender and Sexuality Alliance (GSA), an LGBTQ+ inclusive curriculum, comprehensive antibullying policies, and supportive educators, allies, and role models, they report greater feelings of safety and improved educational outcomes....”



Aloha for All is Good Business

Many older LGBTQ+ adults can only dream of a school that had a GSA or supportive curriculum, teacher or counselor or classes that taught them that they were not alone, not criminal, not mentally ill or simply did not exist. This bill is part of righting of our society in treating LGBTQ+ people with basic dignity and equality.

We only need look around the nation for horrendous new laws nationwide dubbed “don’t say gay” or transgender discrimination “bathroom bills” targeting an already marginalized group. Imagine being a teacher or counselor where you cannot mention anything related to the LGBTQ+ community. Now imagine being a sexual or gender minority student where you are completely left out of any representation in your education, unable to see yourself, unable to access information, even talk with a teacher or counselor without fear of being reported or having a trusted adult faced with being fired for listening. **When we don’t actively include LGBTQ+ topics throughout a curriculum, including specific issues of sexual health, our silence is assent with these types of laws and attitudes. Hawaii is better than this and being better than this means proactively supporting the overall well-being of our students and general population, including Bill HB1697 HD 1.**

Teaching respect and awareness of different sexual and gender minorities, which includes accurate and age-appropriate health information, simply allows for better self-acceptance and health outcomes, and a more accepting and kind society that upholds the best promises of our ideals. Some people say that the schools should stick to science, literature, art, mathematics, social studies, physical fitness and so on. If that is the case, are we representing the LGBTQ+ community in these classes, or does our silence extend to those realms as well? Are we being representational to the LGBTQ+ population in all textbooks and subjects? If we are acknowledging and accepting reality, then studies in a biology or health class must necessarily include curriculum that discusses sexuality that includes the recognized range of sexuality by science. A class on applied mathematics might include a chapter on Alan Turing, the famous gay mathematician credited with breaking the Enigma computer in World War II. A class on current politics or social studies might include representations of all kinds of family structures that actually exist, like US Department of Transportation Pete Buttigieg and his husband and their children, or of Pauli Murray, a Black social activist whose work is recognized as seminal to American jurisprudence. A class on history might include watershed moments such as Stonewall Riots or marriage equality around the USA. And a class on international relations could also teach about range of LGBTQ+ issues faced around the world. A class on human sexuality, as part of a health curriculum, must necessarily include age-appropriate reality on the range of sexuality, gender identity and expression we know exists. To ignore this is shirking a responsibility as educators to equip our students with the best knowledge we can give them as they venture forth from school into the wider society and workplace.



Aloha for All is Good Business

Necessarily, LGBTQ+ people and their existence infuse all areas of life and should be addressed in our educational systems that address LGBTQ+ people and in a just and equitable way. By excluding age-appropriate sexual health inclusive of all students, we are saying that this community is unworthy, to be shunned, marginalized, rejected, or just does not officially exist. By excluding this specific type of education, we are depriving students to recognize each other's different faces of humanity and the full human range of expression--an awful message to teach children about themselves and each other. When we neglect to address these areas directly and openly, we perpetuate discrimination and harassment, rather than unwittingly teaching fellow students that others are less-than, omitted from reality, silences. Instead, we can show a reality that does not need to be filled with animus towards others who are different. Instead we can promote understanding of reality that is factual and kind. Instead, we can lift up students to empower them to make the healthiest choices for themselves, with affirmative, accurate and age-appropriate information that acknowledges their realities as diverse human beings.

If we are to fulfill the mission, vision and values of the DOE, as well as the highest ideals of our state and as a people, we must teach to the full being of students, knowing that this may be the only place where accurate information may be learned safely and completely as part of their overall education that will take them into society and the workplace.

Below is from the DOE website on the Mission, Vision and Values of the DOE:

Our mission

We serve our community by developing the academic achievement, character and social-emotional well-being of our students to the fullest potential. We work with partners, families and communities to ensure that all students reach their aspirations, from early learning through college, career and citizenship.

Our vision

Hawaii's students are educated, healthy, and joyful lifelong learners who contribute positively to our community and global society.

Our core values

Hawaii seeks for its students to meet and exceed world-class academic standards, and do so in a way that reflects our island perspective. Hawaii's students have strengths and abilities unique to an island home, with a tradition of stewardship, community, and mutual responsibility. We will cultivate, advance, and draw from Hawaii's rich traditions and Native Hawaiian host culture.



Aloha for All is Good Business

1. **COMMITMENT TO EQUITY & EXCELLENCE:** We believe every child is unique and deserves an excellent education — one that develops the whole student. Students succeed when their specific needs are met and their innate gifts and abilities are nurtured.
2. **MEANINGFUL LEARNING:** We learn from many sources and in many ways. Hawaii provides abundant real-world learning environments relevant for success in a culturally diverse, technologically complex, and interdependent global society.
3. **CARING RELATIONSHIPS:** Education is a responsibility shared by all and the best results come when we work together with aloha, respect, integrity, and openness.
4. **CONNECTION TO COMMUNITY, FAMILY AND AINA:** We see students as part of an extended ohana, the environment, a larger community and a global society. Hawaii students value these connections and become stewards to help make our world a better place.

Please read the above mission, vision and core values of the DOE and you will exactly see that this type of education is integral to a comprehensive well-being and knowledge for an increasingly just, diverse and better society, of special importance for the wellbeing to students and members of the LGBTQ+ community.

In summary, the Hawaii Rainbow Chamber of Commerce FULLY SUPPORTS HB1697 HD1 and other bills which further the acceptance of reality of the LGBTQ+ students and their families, that fully supports their complete and comprehensive education that is inclusive of their needs and represents them proportionally and positively, and that advocates for a safe, just, and equitable society that values all of its individuals for who and what they are.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony,

Winston Welch
President, Hawaii Rainbow Chamber of Commerce

HB-1697-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2022 8:01:24 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/1/2022 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Ayman El-Swaify	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am writing to express my opposition and disappointment with the subject bill HB1697. The role of our educators is to focus on academics, not to be indoctrinated or to indoctrinate our children with themes opposed to the traditional family, which is the core and strength of our society. While I fully support anti-discrimination in accordance with existing law (and am sure our educators are ALREADY being extensively trained in this), these bills go too far in promoting alternative lifestyles within our schools at the expense of traditional values.

Please uphold our State Motto

Ua Mau ke Ea o ka Aina i ka Pono

Thank you for your consideration and for staying true our precious values.

HB-1697-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2022 8:58:41 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/1/2022 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Piilani Pareisa	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Strongly oppose bill 1697

TESTIMONY OF JANEZKA ESPOSO
DECISION MAKING ON MARCH 1, 2022 AT 12:30PM VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

FOR BILL NO.:
HB1697 HD1: RELATING TO SEXUAL HEALTH EDUCATION.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2022

Aloha Representative Woodson and Committee Members:

My name is Janezka Esposito and I **strongly support** HB1697, Relating to Sexual Health Education, which requires DOE to provide comprehensive training for teachers and educational officers on sexual health topics that include positive and accurate representations of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer or questioning, intersex, asexual, other sexual orientations and gender identities, persons of color, and disability communities to destigmatize and promote sexual health to destigmatize and promote sexual health.

As a young woman who has gone through K-12 education, I can testify that the sexual health education that I've been taught in school have put me at a disadvantage. Sexual health did not seem like it was something "normal" to talk about and created many awkward conversations with my peers along with having to research online for answers for questions because the classes offered did not provide sufficient information. Looking at my peers, it was obvious to me that we were not taught the importance of normalizing conversations of sexual health, making it difficult for most of us to comfortably learn about our bodies and sex. It baffles me that many people I meet have inaccurate or little knowledge about sexual health and concerns me. I've seen many peers of mine have unplanned pregnancies and have many questions about sexual health (when they are comfortable speaking to me about it).

The importance of teaching youth accurate knowledge of their bodies and sexuality learn about safe sex practices, how to prevent sexually transmitted infections, and even go further to talk about consent and healthy relationships is needed. It will help them to have safe sex and reduces chances of unwanted pregnancies, possible abortion, and sexually transmitted infections. Making these conversations become normal will increase their confidence about their bodies with decreased feelings of confusion and shame when it comes to puberty and changes in their bodies. This can also be a chance to teach them about healthy relationships and decrease the potential of harassment, bullying, and high-risk sexual behaviors.

I've had so many awkward and possibly dangerous encounters relating to sexual health and I know that I am not the only one. I've also found it difficult to be able to lean on my peers for

support when it comes to conversations of sexual health because they were not taught that it's okay to talk about sexual health openly. This creates an isolating environment for those who are confused and wanting to safely and properly learn. This bill will be able to do more good than harm because sexual health is just as important as physical health. HB1697 will make positive steps forward to destigmatize and promote sexual health education, benefiting the health and safety for our youth.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

FROM: JANEZKA ESPOSO
MASTERS IN SOCIAL WORK STUDENT

HB-1697-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2022 11:59:22 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/1/2022 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Thaddeus Pham	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Yamashita, and members of the FIN Committee,

As a public health professional and concerned community member, I write in strong support of HB1697 HD1, which would provide training and support for educators to ensure that our keiki have positive and accurate representations of all genders, sexual orientations, and people of color.

This bill is especially important because more than 1 out of 10 of DOE high school students identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, questioning, and/or transgender. With such a large number of students, it is imperative that we provide appropriate and accurate information to ensure their health.

Please ensure that our educators are supported with the training they need to provide our young people with the accurate and positive representations of sexual health they deserve.

Mahalo for your time,

Thaddeus Pham (he/him)

HB-1697-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2022 7:56:11 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/1/2022 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Leimomi Khan	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Support for all of the reasons described in the testimony given by the Dept of Health. I am especially persuaded by the SIECUS reports that “Beyond lowering rates of unwanted teen pregnancy and STI transmission, CSE has both psychological and physical benefits. LGBTQ+ youth are 23% less likely to attempt suicide when schools include education on LGBTQ+ subjects or people” (<https://siecus.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/CSE-Federal-Factsheet-Sept-2021-Update-2.pdf>).

HB-1697-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2022 10:41:16 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/1/2022 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Julia Sinenci	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha my name is Julia Sinenci and I oppose HB 1697 HD1

I was born and raised in the county of Maui. I am now a mother of two boys and an aunty to other children. The passing of this bill will create confusion in our keiki. Not to mention as parents we are not trying to expose our children to this kind of perversion at such a young age. There is already so much they are being exposed to subliminally, in TV and games. We do not and will not let this bill pass. If passed , and I can say this with certainty thousands of children will be pulled from schools. I myself will not have my children exposed to such vulgar ideas.

HB-1697-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2022 11:12:01 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/1/2022 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Michael Press	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

My name is Michael Press. I am a teacher at Ilima Intermediate in Ewa Beach on Oahu. I support this bill. Please give your support to it as well.

HB-1697-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2022 3:03:00 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/1/2022 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Renee Dieperink	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

OPPOSE HB1697 HD1

I'm against discrimination and totally for anyone self-actualizing and being who they want to be, and to enjoy sex they way they do. But...this is private information that has nothing to do with what schools should teach!

There are also still scientific facts. There are two genders, male and female. To deny this is to create confusion. Having said that, if a person wants to identify as something else, that's fine, let them. However, biology will still work as it is designed. A male who identifies as a female can think he can get pregnant, but the facts are that this is just not true. To act like he could would create serious mental health issues!

This bill proposes training to include "accurate representations of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer or questioning, intersex, asexual, other sexual orientations and gender identities, persons of color, and disability communities to destigmatize and promote sexual health."

WHO decides what an accurate representation is?

WHO defines what sexual health means?

WHY are "persons of color" and the "disability community" included in this sex health bill? Are there differences about persons of color and those with disabilities regarding sex?

I know you are not going to listen and will pass this bill anyway, but can you please at least ensure that schools will not hide things from parents? I have heard horror stories of a friend in California who's daughter's school allowed the student to leave school for gender reassignment treatment during school hours (only for her -eh...him?- wanting to reverse things years later). Please don't allow this type of thing to happen in Hawaii! Parents have the right to be included in their child's physical and mental health. Do not allow schools to participate in hiding things from parents and be an accomplice in sex changes.

I am also pleading with you to not implement confusing pronouns.

HE/SHE HIM/HER HIS/HER HIS/HERS HIMSELF/HERSELF

zie	zim	zir	zis	zieself
sie	sie	hir	hirs	hirsself
ey	em	eir	eirs	eirself
ve	ver	vis	vers	verself
tey	ter	tem	ters	terself
e	em	eir	eirs	emself

HB-1697-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2022 4:16:21 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/1/2022 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Roberta Helemano	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Please OPPOSE this bill HB1697. Protect our Keiki from this bill. As an educator in the DOE I stand against this bill and I will not support this education teaching on any children. Where is the parent rights in this. I believe the government and DOE shouldn't opposed/forced this on our Keiki's. Parents have every right to protect their children on sensitive topics on especially on sexual education . Thank you! Please OPPOSE BILL HB1697.

HB-1697-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2022 4:46:16 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/1/2022 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Debbie Wyand	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB1697

Because this is not sex education, it's indoctrination

This will lead to child exploration

It sets our children up for confusion and sex abuse

Values are to be taught in the home not through government schools

HB-1697-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2022 5:58:19 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/1/2022 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kristen Pahukoa-Sardinh	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose this bill. I believe that as parents it is our kuleana to teach our children and we should be able to know everything that our children are learning and being taught. I believe they also should not be taught by such graphic pornographic images starting at the age of 10. It should not be up to the school to pick the curriculum for our children. Especially when it comes to such sensitive information.

HB-1697-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2022 6:40:49 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/1/2022 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Peter J Long Jr	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am strongly opposed to this legislation. It is written with a "broad brush" unapologetically requiring that training for teachers requires DOE to focus solely on providing comprehensive training for teachers and educational officers on sexual health topics that include "positive and accurate" representations of the *lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer or questioning, intersex, asexual*, and *other sexual orientations and gender identities* and persons of color communities, to "destigmatize" and "promote sexual health". It does not require "true" or "accurate" descriptions of the adverse effects of these practises as determined by psychologists and medical personel when in fact, there are a multitude of adverse results that are well documented. It assumes that the only promotion of "sexual health" will occur from "positive" representations of these activities. It completely ignores any promotion of binary, monogamous, sexual activities which occur between one man and one woman. The legislation is a decidedly biased attempt to provide one sided information to the teachers of our children. I strongly recommend that you disapprove this legislation and remove it from consideration. Thank you.

HB-1697-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2022 8:02:41 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/1/2022 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Julia M. Yano	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

May I strongly urge you to OPPOSE HB1697.

I believe information beyond basic, traditional Male/Female Sexual Education for age appropriate students is to be left to the responsibility of parents. Current Sexual Culture and Values are to be taught in the home not through government schools

HB-1697-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2022 8:06:32 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/1/2022 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Nikos Leverenz	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Yamashita, and Finance Committee Members:

I am writing in **strong support** of HB 1697, HD 1, which requires the State Department of Education to provide comprehensive training for teachers and educational officers on sexual health topics that include positive and accurate representations of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer or questioning, intersex, asexual, other sexual orientations and gender identities, persons of color, and disability communities to destigmatize and promote sexual health. The bill also requires sexual health education programs to include similar sexual health topics to destigmatize and promote sexual health.

Sexual health education should clearly include science-based, medically accurate information for sexual and gender minorities (SGM), including transgender and gender non-conforming persons. [Data show that SGM youth face a range of health challenges compared to their heterosexual and cisgender peers](#), including higher rates of use of alcohol and other drugs, higher rates of depression and other mental health issues, higher rates of psychological, physical, and sexual abuse, and increased risk of housing instability and hunger. This was confirmed by a [2018 study from the state Department of Health on transgender youth](#).

[Science-based, medically accurate sexual health education reduces the incidence of HIV, sexually transmitted infections \(STI\), and unwanted pregnancies](#). It is critical that adolescents who are beginning to engage in sexual activity have the information and resources needed to make decisions that protect their health and well-being. Toward that end, **the state should also end its misguided ban on the distribution of no-cost safer sex supplies, including condoms and lubrication, at high school campuses**.

Prior to the pandemic, [Hawaii saw a significant uptick in STI rates among the general population](#), and it is foreseeable that STI rates will increase COVID-related restrictions on travel and gatherings are dropped.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony on this important public health matter that deserves ongoing legislative attention.

HB-1697-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2022 8:38:03 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/1/2022 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Boyd Ready	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Dear elected representatives:

Please notice that nearly every testimony favoring this bill comes from employees, consultants, and practitioners who earn money from the system. Nearly every one opposed is a common ordinary citizen, the voter.

Please note also that the Federal Executive department's interpretation of Title IX as applying to 'gender identity' is that of one Party's Executive branch officials, when in office, and is an 'interpretation' of the law, arguably not that of the plain meaning. The term 'sex' is biological, the term 'gender identity' is ideological.

You have no obligation to spend public money on more teacher training in these matters. And with public funds we have no business interceding in family and personal interpretations of the meaning of our children's lives, erotic and otherwise, except in fostering an informed and capable citizenry. We are a free people, not a dependent class whose children need to be subjected to, even if well-meaning, ardently persuasive adult 'gender-identity' notions.

Nearly 40% of self-selected college bound youth, having graduated from our Hawaii school system, require REMEDIAL classes in English and math upon entering college. Teachers hired in the DOE flee at a 50% rate by the 5th year of service. Teachers and administrators in large numbers send their own children to private schools. Young adults forming families and raising children are leaving the State in substantial numbers.

As legislators overseeing Hawaii public schools, I urge you to drop this sideshow of arguably ideological and social-engineering topics for teacher training. I urge you to defer indefinitely, and move on to bills that will improve the RESULTS of public education.

Sincerely,

Boyd Ready

Haleiwa

HB-1697-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2022 8:38:14 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/1/2022 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Danielle Sato	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Danielle Sato, and I am a second year medical student writing in strong support of HB1697 HD1, which would provide training and support for educators in the effort to ensure that our keiki have positive and accurate representations of all genders, sexual orientations, and people of color. The effects of non-inclusive education in general, and particularly sexual education, can have devastating consequences for sexual and gender minority youth, who are already at increased risk for unsafe sexual practices and sexually transmitted infections. This bill can have long-reaching consequences for health and well-being of LGBTQ+ youth in Hawai'i. Please ensure that our educators are supported with the training they need to ensure our young people get the accurate and positive representations of sexual health they deserve.

Mahalo nui for your consideration.

HB-1697-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2022 10:00:13 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/1/2022 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Claudia Pokipala	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose HB1697. It is sets are children up for confusion and exploration which could lead to sexual abuse. This is not sex Ed. It is indoctrination. **These are morals and values that should I Be taught at home I'm not by government schools.**

HB-1697-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2022 10:25:21 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/1/2022 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Craig Dansie	We the People	Oppose	No

Comments:

NO

HB-1697-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2022 11:57:24 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/1/2022 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Winifred Yamashiro	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Dear Chairman Woodson, Vice-chair Kapela, and committee members,

I strongly oppose this bill.

Thank you.

HB-1697-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2022 10:58:30 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/1/2022 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Bernadette Toyama	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I STRONGLY OPPOSE this BILL HB1697, because this will only confuse our keiki! The DOE shouldn't be allowed to teach these types of sex education. Teaching starts from the home and WE AS PARENTS ARE the BEST TEACHERS for our keiki!! God bless and NO TO BILL HB1697!!!

Aloha,

Bernadette

HB-1697-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2022 12:46:51 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/1/2022 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Judy Taggerty-Onaga	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha, this is in response to dangerous HB1697, as this is not Education but Brainwashing and Confusing our children and that is actually CHILD ABUSE. We do not want this in our public schools now or ever, Please.

Time to put our children first, educate the basics they need to function and succeed in life, not tell them what they are or what to do Our schools are supposed to be Safe places for our children, not dangeous.

Why would the DOE want to do this indoctrination of our children, it's scary.

Mahalo for your time and attention on this important matter.

Judy Taggerty-Onaga

Kalaoa Kona Hawai'i

House Committee on Finance
Testimony in Opposition to HB 1697
Tues. March 1, 2022

Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair
Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Vice Chair

Committee Members

Representatives: Branco, Eli, Holt, Ilagan, Kobayashi, Marten, Nishimoto, Perruso, Sayama, Tam, Todd Wildberger, McDermott

Please note that I continue to strongly oppose this bill HB1697. I can't help but think back a few years when a parent discovered "Pono Choices" a program being quietly taught in some of our schools. What happened when parents and the public found out? There was such an outcry! The auditorium was filled with justified angry parents, grandparents and conservative who were outrage about what was being taught.

Am so deeply concerned to think that so many of our legislators are unable to see what this bill will lead to. Putting our children at risk for sex abuse, exploitation, possible irreversible genital mutilation. Have any of you polled your constituents to see how they felt regarding such a critical issue as this?

What may be even more concerning is that this may be the goal for some legislators ... to them I say please reconsider!

We see numerous sites and studies that have shown destructive results these types of programs have resulted in nationwide:

Lawsuit claims gender counseling to blame for child's suicide attempts ... [website](#)
Johns Hopkins Research: No Evidence People Are Born Gay or Transgender ... [website](#).
GROOMING: Homosexual Cross-Dresser to be Featured on PBS Kids' Program 'Sesame Street' ... [website](#).

Transgender activist says all children should be put on puberty blockers until they can decide their gender ... [website](#).

What is Comprehensive Sexuality Education? ([6 min. video](#)) ← well worth the time

As a Taxpayer, education should concentrate on the basics like Math, English, Science etc. and Sex Education should concentrate on biology and development that does not to lead them down questionable moral values path.

The children are the responsibility of their parents and home is where values are taught, not in government run schools.

So again, I ask that you stop this bill HB1697 here today.

Respectfully,
Rita Kama-Kimura

HB-1697-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2022 2:14:30 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/1/2022 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Alvin Keamo	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I Alvin Keamo strongly oppose HB1697 because I believe sexuality, and health issues should be taught at home with parents. The Department of Education should not be pressured or required to teach on sexual health issues, that would be sensitive, and not comfortable to all teachers, educators, and students. It would not be fair to everyone. Everyone has choice in their sexuality, and the schools are already practicing equity, and inclusion. We don't need to add more to what teachers are already doing. I believe the health Education in the public schools are sufficient for all. I oppose this bill. Aloha!

HB-1697-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2022 3:49:12 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/1/2022 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Jana Levin-Strojny	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB 1697.

HB-1697-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2022 4:05:15 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/1/2022 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Eileen Kusakabe	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

To Our Honorable Legislators,

I am strongly opposed to thus bill. I feel it causes much confusion to our impressionable children and that this should be taught by parents. Thank you for taking the time to read my testimony.

Sincerely,

Eileen Kusakabe

HB-1697-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2022 6:00:33 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/1/2022 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Mary Smart	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose HB1697. The topics covered have no place in secondary education. The topics are not academic and can be harmful, not helpful to a child. The topics appear to be based on unproven theories and subjective godless opinions. For example, there are only two biological sexes yet the gender falsehoods are being promoted. Follow the science. I read the book "After the Ball" where the authors admit that no one is "born that way" but told the reader it is a good concept to use when selling the idea of same sex relationships being the norm. I am sure many people obtained a PHD by "discovering" a new gender - - but those theories should not be confused with either truth or reality no matter how appealing they seem. It is also a known fact that sex outside of heterosexual marriage is harmful emotionally and statistically those relationships do not last. It is also a fact that STDs/STIs are rampant in Hawaii right now. Much of that can be attributed to comprehensive sex education (CSE) that teaches sexual relations are "recreational" (selfcentered) rather than "creational" (other-centered). The damage already done by the current CSC curricula is enough. Do not increase the damage that is advocated by HB1697. There are negative aspects regarding the communities suggested to be covered in a positive manner. Why isn't the whole truth being told about those topics such as the high rate of suicide, drug and alcohol additions and other negative aspects of those lifestyle choices? A student should understand the negative consequences of these choices as well as the positive but I don't see that being offered in the curricula. Often same sex relationships suffer from more violence and infidelity besides depression and suicides. Will students that are considering a sex reassignment surgery be told that many people now are requesting surgeries to return to their true sex? That is an important fact that shouldn't be omitted when taking about the transgender topic. A generation of youth is suffering from all the misinformation the "woke" CSE teaching. Do not pass this bill. Consider repealing all the CSE mandates. Bring back biological fact/science based sex education and not the latest cool trend/fad. Under no circumstance should any funds be allocated to CSC programs.

Why haven't town halls been held on this topic so parents can provide the input being considered in this bill? If parents knew the indoctrination that is being proposed they would be voicing their objections loudly.

Vote against HB1697 HD1.

HB-1697-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2022 6:16:31 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/1/2022 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Phyllis Aira Sheer Raquinio	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Monday, February 28, 2021

House Committee on Finance

My name is Phyllis Aira Sheer Raquinio. I was born and raised on Maui, and I am a constituent of the island. I am also a graduate of the Master of the Public Health program at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa with a focus on comprehensive sexual education, and I am a sexual and health educator. Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify in strong support of HB 1697 HD 1, relating to providing comprehensive training for teachers and educational officers on LGBTQ+ and disability topics for sexual health.

This bill is important to me because, although I am a cisgender heterosexual female who does not have mental or physical disabilities, I have family and friends, I have mentored high school students, and there are people who are part of the LGBTQ+ community and/or who have disabilities. When I was in high school, I didn't receive education on the LGBTQ+ community or those with disabilities. If I had, I would have better understood what my family and friends and mentees go through as part of marginalized groups and be able to better support them. It is especially important for someone like me to be an ally for these communities.

This is an important issue in our state, especially now, because of the harmful bills being passed in other states. There is no reason to further stigmatize the LGBTQ+ community and those with disabilities, and Hawai‘i should be an example of a place home to diverse people that we are accepting of. It does not take away from people like me who are cisgender, heterosexual, and do not have mental or physical disabilities. Education on these topics will increase awareness and understanding of these communities to better support them, especially when they have a long and continued history of stigmatization and discrimination against them. It is important to show them and others that we support and accept these communities, especially if we have loved ones who are LGBTQ+ and/or have disabilities. It is also important to note that topics such as healthy relationships and consent do not only apply to sexual health. These topics can help students have healthy relationships with friends and family, and consent can apply to non-sexual situations.

In my last testimony, I referred to the [2018 Hawai'i Sexual and Gender Minority Health Report from the Department of Health](#), which shows many of the struggles faced by LGBTQ+ youth, and the Rainbow Town Hall from the Hawai'i LGBT Legacy Foundation featuring current high school students who have expressed that they have not received education on LGBTQ+ topics, which perpetuates the stigma that the LGBTQ+ community continues to face. These still hold true. Especially for secondary school students who are still developing, it is vital for adults particularly to provide support for them, show them that they are accepted for who they are, and understand that there are students who are LGBTQ+ and/or have disabilities and it does not make them any less. By providing sex education that is not comprehensive, it leaves out vital information on the LGBTQ+ community, those with disabilities, and other marginalized groups and further perpetuates the stigma against them.

It is vital for teachers and educational officers to receive training and support to provide youth with important, accurate, and positive information about the LGBTQ+ community and those with disabilities so that everyone in the school environment, especially those who are cisgender, heterosexual, and do not have disabilities, can better support their peers and students can learn more about themselves, receive more support from their classmates and teachers, and feel safer.

Can I count on you to support HB 1697 HD 1?

Thank you very much.

Phyllis Aira Sheer Raquinio

HB-1697-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2022 6:19:06 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/1/2022 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Eloise Pavao	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose Bill HB1697 because this is not sex education, it is indoctrination. This will lead to child exploration. It sets our children up for confusion and sex abuse: questioning sexual orientation, gender identities -transgender, lesbian, gay, bisexual, asexual, etc.

Values are to be taught in the home not through schools.

HB-1697-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2022 7:09:05 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/1/2022 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Sonia Blackiston	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As a parent, educator and community member, I strongly support HB1697 HD1. It is vital for the health and wellbeing of our youth to have accurate and positive representations of LGBTQ+ and BIPOC persons in sexual health programming and beyond. Educators need training and technical assistance to ensure they are providing inclusive programming that meets the needs of every young person in our communities. Sexual health education is just as, if not more, important than other standard subjects. And, it is a whole community effort, from parents as the first and foremost educators for their children to schools providing accurate, inclusive knowledge and information, to government creating responsible policies to ensure everyone has the best chance for their health and wellbeing. Please do the right thing and give educators the training and support needed to provide inclusive programming that will benefit all.

Mahalo for your time,

Sonia Blackiston

HB-1697-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2022 7:42:27 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/1/2022 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Gerard Silva	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

We do not want any of this for our Children in Hawaii. You are leaveing us the people with no chioce. We will have to get ride of the crap in our schools!!

HB-1697-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2022 7:55:17 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/1/2022 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Jodi Kaopuiki	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I ABSOLUTELY OPPOSE THIS BILL. This is unnecessary for our children to learn. This is not about sex education, its indoctrination and poses absolute confusion for children. These types of subjects are to be taught at home and not by teachers. This is wrong and I oppose this bill.

HB-1697-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2022 8:04:03 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/1/2022 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Krishna Taroc	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill because just like any other youth, the LGBTQ youth need an inclusive sex education in order to have an understanding of their bodies, relationships, and health. The LGBTQ youth need sex education in order to protect themselves. Evidence suggests that sex education for LGBTQ youth can reduce high risk sexual behaviors, it promotes safe sex practices, and it prevents unwanted pregnancies and sexually transmitted infections. Many LGBTQ youth are present in the classrooms but they do not learn about their inclusive experiences, therefore, they need the right education in order to stay safe and healthy. If teachers and educational officers gain the proper training to educate LGBTQ youth about sexual health topics, it will help them learn about their sexual orientation and gender identity. In fact, recent survey suggests that 78% of parents support the discussion of sexual orientation as part of sex education in middle school. This bill will be critical to the LGBTQ youth sexual health therefore I support it.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

HB-1697-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2022 8:59:36 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/1/2022 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Donna Fa'ainuinu	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha Finance Committee and Legislative Leaders of Hawaii,

I appreciate your attention to my concerns regarding
HB1697.

Please note that I **STRONGLY OPPOSE HB1697.**

This is a dreadful bill!

I believe that it's very important to leave subjects such as "SEXUAL HEALTH EDUCATION" to that of parents. From birth, a child looks to his/her parents for love, protection, education, and especially moral direction. Parents serve as the first teachers for their keiki during the early years. The responsibility of teaching/educating doesn't end when a keiki goes to school. Keiki will often need help from parents with their assignments - in english, math, science, and social studies. I believe that a parent's involvement in their child's education is crucial to having a successful future and to being a valuable contributor to society. Parents **MUST** continue to have the right to raise their child(ren) according to their own moral principals. Government **MUST NOT** and **SHOULD NOT** be involved in educating our children about **SEX**.

PLEASE, let parents be parents.

PLEASE do not allow our tax dollars to be used to fund HB1697.

Thank you for our time and consideration.

Donna
Fa'ainuinu
ed registered voter and tax payer

Concern

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ON HB1697, H.D.1
RELATING TO SEXUAL HEALTH EDUCATION
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
TUESDAY, MARCH 1, 2022

Chairman Luke and Vice-Chair Yamashita:

My name is Donna Van Osdol, President of the Hawaii Federation of Republican Women and member of the National Federation of Republican Women's Legislative and Advocacy Committee.

I vehemently oppose this and any type of legislation that exploits and/or indoctrinates our children. While being the leader of the Task Force on Human Trafficking for the National Federation of Republican Women's Legislative Committee, what I learned from being on this committee, attending webinars, doing research, and working with friends who oppose comprehensive sexuality education, there is a national and worldwide attempt by the pornography industry to desensitize our children against ANY type of predatory behavior including sex trafficking and human trafficking especially through their comprehensive sexuality education programs installed in our schools.

Organizations such as Protect Child Health Care, National Center on Sexual Exploitation, and No Left Turn on Education all agree that this type of education includes one horrific aspect: teaching pornography to our children via online databases (also called "the new classrooms") being used in our schools, and libraries now have made available pornography. The online databases and libraries used by our schools not only in Hawaii but nationwide are all somehow interconnected with the porn industry having found an easy way to the databases' "back door."

There are numerous federal laws that prohibit the distribution of obscene and harmful materials to minors and include: (1) 18 U.S.C. §1470 prohibits the knowing interstate transfer of obscene material to a minor under 16 years of age; (2) 18 U.S.C. §2252C, prohibits the knowing embedment of words or digital images into the source code of a website with the intent to deceive a minor into viewing harmful or obscene materials; and (3) 47 U.S.C. §254 (h) Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) requires schools to have a policy of internet safety to protect against access of visual depictions that are obscene, pornographic or harmful to minors in order to receive certain federal funding. As a legislator, you are responsible for upholding all laws, especially those at the federal level because federal laws apply to all states.

Most importantly, there are many Hawaii families that are trying to raise their children to be virtuous, and they strongly object to pornography and anything having to do with transgender and LGBTQ ideologies because of their families' core values. The classes

should be approved by the parents, and they should not be automatically forced on their children. Otherwise, you are not “teaching” them, you are “indoctrinating” them into a lifestyle their parents do not approve. Those types of classes should not be a requirement. I also wonder how the teachers who oppose the LGBTQ, pornographical, and transgender ideologies, because of their religious and/or personal beliefs, feel about having to teach these courses. By forcing them to do so, Hawaii’s government may be overstepping its reach, and you may be accountable to any Constitutional issue.

Please hold this bill. Thank you for your time and consideration.

HB-1697-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2022 9:25:04 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/1/2022 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Dara Carlin, M.A.	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Stand in STRONG OPPOSITION - our children don't need this!!!

HB-1697-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2022 9:53:32 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/1/2022 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Marivic Estrala	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I STRONGLY OPPOSE TO HB1697!

SEX EDUCATION BE NOT TAUGHT IN SCHOOLS.

I OPPOSE THE GOVERNMENT TO REQUIRE OR MADE INTO LAW TO HAVE ANY SEXUAL HEALTH TEACHINGS TO ALL STUDENTS IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND PRIVATE SCHOOLS.

HB-1697-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2022 10:15:20 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/1/2022 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
betty kwong	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I strongly oppose due to concerns for our keiki's mental health and physical well-being. These measures are presented as though it is about education and curriculum, but in fact HB1697 underminea education and promote exploitation of our keiki. please vote NO.

HB-1697-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2022 10:57:33 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/1/2022 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Mikela Akoi	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Hi my name is Mikela Akoi from Hana Maui I'm writing this testimony on behalf of the HB1697 bill and I know that's not a good thing for the young children in school to be learning those sexual things God has only created 2 genders male and female and we don't have to look any further so PLEASE PLEASE consider what I am saying thank you very much!!!!

HB-1697-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2022 6:16:02 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/1/2022 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Joanna Wright	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha Chairman Woodson and members of the Committee on Education,

My name is Joanna Wright and I am a mom, DOE high school teacher, and Catholic young adult (ages 18-39) ministry leader. I oppose this bill out of concern that it will promote a biased view of sexual values, normalizing lifestyle choices that would be harmful to our youth and that are opposed by their parents. While I agree that students need to be informed about their bodies and their sexuality in order to make safe and healthy choices, and while I agree that students need to be taught to accept themselves and each other the way they are, I can see that the current prevailing teaching confuses biology and feelings (which should be approached with acceptance, empathy and understanding) with moral behavior choices, on which there is room for respectful disagreement.

Regarding homosexuality, I have enormous respect and appreciation for my gay and lesbian colleagues and students, as well as warm, supportive relationships with them. That does not mean I agree with all of their lifestyle choices. It is so important to accept people for who they are, including their personalities, mannerisms, feelings, and experiences. Rather than being told that we all need to agree with certain behaviors, students should be taught that we can respect those we disagree with. Some students make fun of other students for being different, or ‘gay.’ This is terrible and needs to be stopped. Upon talking with some of those students, I have found that part of their motivation stems from the fact that they and their families have moral objections to homosexual behavior. I try to teach them that even though you disagree with someone’s choices, you can still love and respect them as a person. These students need to feel safe and accepted holding the moral beliefs they hold while also learning to respect and create a safe environment for others. My position on this issue stems both from my religious beliefs, and from personal experience with a highly respected mentor and two dear Catholic friends who have experienced same-sex attraction, but after a time living a homosexual lifestyle, made the choice to abstain from same-sex romantic relationships out of devotion to their faith. Though their paths have been difficult, I can see the peace and fulfillment in their lives, and I want our LGBTQ+ students to be given options for making choices about their lives rather than

being told that they are expected to engage in same-sex romantic relationships just because they have those feelings and inclinations.

On the issue of transgenderism, I also have some personal experience. I grew up with and am still very close with a woman who, between the ages of six and ten, wanted to be a boy. Her parents celebrated her unique personality and affirmed her strength and athleticism, but did not give her any option of changing her gender. At that time, no one in society was telling gender dysphoric young people that they should change their genders. She eventually grew out of the dysphoria and is now a mature, happy biological woman and mother of five. I have heard, but do not have personal knowledge, of a number of people who went through gender reassignment, later regretted it, and are now detransitioning. I am sure these people wished that the adults in their lives had encouraged them to delay making any irreversible decisions until adulthood. According to research (which I unfortunately do not have time to look up and cite due to short notice about this hearing), a majority of gender dysphoric young people grow out of their discomfort with their birth gender after going through puberty. This allows them to live the rest of their lives in biologically intact bodies. Hormone blockers would have prevented the changes that could have helped them resolve their feelings. I believe it is harmful to our youth to give them the idea that they can or should start changing their gender before they reach the age of full majority, when they are more capable of understanding themselves and making a wise decision. This said, I love and support all of my transgender students, but when they ask me for advice, I do strongly encourage them to talk to their parents about the issue and try to understand their parents' position.

Young people should be given the opportunity to receive moral guidance first from their parents, rather than being told that 'science' says certain choices should naturally follow from certain feelings. They should be given the freedom to work through their feelings and struggles without being bombarded with the pressure of stories, images, etc. that normalize or promote morally controversial behaviors. In light of this, I oppose HB1697 because I believe it is pushing a social agenda.

One last note: I believe any law regarding sexual health education needs to include strong provisions prohibiting the use of pornography in sexual education. I do not personally know whether pornographic images or videos are currently being provided to students in Hawaii schools, but I see that many others giving testimony are concerned about this, and there should be no question that sexually explicit pictures and videos are absolutely not ok to present to youth. Pornography is extremely harmful, and besides being completely unnecessary to a healthy sexual education, it opens students up to greater vulnerability to abuse and to pursuing unhealthy sexual behaviors. Please make sure any bill you pass expressly prohibits the use of pornography.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Joanna Wright

HB-1697-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2022 6:22:40 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/1/2022 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Renee Pedersen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support HB 1697 HD1, which would provide training and support for educators in the effort to ensure that our keiki have positive and accurate representations of all genders, sexual orientations, and people of color. It's important to me because learning about physiological functions of the body are critical to making the best decisions for oneself. Including information on sexual health and function at appropriate ages throughout the education system promotes more understanding, the ability make better choices, and avoid harm. Knowing about safer sex and healthy sexual behaviors without stigma does not increase the participation in sexual activity but does empower the person to decide what is most safe and fulfilling for them rather than basing all knowledge on what's posted on the internet.

I have seen straight young teens in schools without healthy sexual education participate in anal intercourse because it "saves virginity for marriage" and is never talked about in any way that is educational and without bias. Silence from educators and other adults led to accepting the idea that this makes logical sense and led to many more risky sexual encounters. Discussing health impacts of behaviors without judgment leads to less experimentation by giving information in the light, not leaving the issue in the dark because it can feel uncomfortable to talk through.

Please ensure that our educators are supported with the training they need to ensure our young people get the accurate and positive representations of sexual health they deserve.

Mahalo for your time,

Renee Pedersen Rumler

HB-1697-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2022 8:01:57 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/1/2022 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Tiana Wilbur	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments:

I strongly OPPOSE HB1697!! This particular topic has nothing to do with sex education. It should and has always only consisted of body parts and natural functions thereof. There should never be a discussion or an encouragement for them to experiment and be shown how and what these activities consist of. We as parents choose to teach our children our family values and like myself my parents that would have discussions at home such as safety, consequences, responsible choices at an older age and if this would be added to a public curriculum at the age I had my first sex education class which ONLY consisted of my menstrual cycle and how to use pads, parts of the penis and vagina and it should not consist of anymore especially at younger ages it'll confuse our generations to come. Many individuals will have more psychological, emotional, self development issues. They will be exposed to things at a younger age which opens doors to becoming sexually active sooner!! Our school curriculum should focus on what our children NEEDS to be learning such as math, science, english, reading and exceling our children to higher education not adding a nonsense curriculum!!

side note:(I'm pretty sure parents or sexually active individuals now!! Didn't naturally need a class to show them how sexual intercourse takes place we are human beings and it is a natural part of development, most if not all intercourse we don't plan having sex!! It is an event that just takes in a moment!! We've had successful generations come through our public school systems and everyone already makes their own choices in their sexuality we don't need to be trained WE ARE NOT ROBOTS!!!! because if this is the case why aren't we teaching religion? Again we respect and have exemptions for everyones freedom of choice so no one should be subjected and coerced in such a topic!! Again please utilize our tax dollars to necessary educational purposes this is not one of those!!!!) Again I strongly oppose HB1697!!! Think about it, If you felt uncomfortable or anything about my testimony imagine how our children would feel sitting in a classroom forced with such a topic!!

HB-1697-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2022 8:10:41 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/1/2022 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Maddalynn Seseapasara	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support HB 1697 HD1, which would provide training and support for educators in the effort to ensure that our keiki have positive and accurate representations of all genders, sexual orientations, and people of color. It's important to me because I believe every child should have the freedom to express themselves without feeling bad for what they feel or do.

Please ensure that our educators are supported with the training they need to ensure our young people get the accurate and positive representations of sexual health they deserve.

Mahalo for your time,

Maddalynn Seseapasara

HB-1697-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2022 8:16:23 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/1/2022 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Edna Kido	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

"Oppose" this bill will not help our children.

HB-1697-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2022 8:21:10 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/1/2022 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Roxanne Earwood	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Parents and grandparents do NOT want this type of sexual education in our schools! We are responsible to mold and shape our children's sexual education according to our family values, not those of the HI Legislature nor HIDOE. Public schools should teach the basics of a classical education, and STOP indoctrinating our children with their moral codes. Vote NO on HB 1697!

HB-1697-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2022 8:39:23 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/1/2022 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Wendy Taylor	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support HB 1697 HD1, which would provide training and support for educators in the effort to ensure that our keiki have positive and accurate representations of all genders, sexual orientations, and people of color. It's important to me because having a trans child, I've watched them face an immense struggle since they socially transitioned 7 years ago. This will also give educators the knowledge they need to support our LGBT+ youth. There are also STI's that are more prevalent in some sexual relationships and this needs to be widespread knowledge.

Please ensure that our educators are supported with the training they need to ensure our young people get the accurate and positive representations of sexual health they deserve.

Mahalo for your time,

Wendy Taylor

HB-1697-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2022 9:07:20 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/1/2022 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Jaime Stevens, MD, MPH	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Jaime Stevens, MD, MPH
1177 Queen St. #2707 Honolulu, HI, 96814
February 28, 2022

Hawai'i State Legislature Re: Testimony in Support of HB1697 HD1

Aloha Members of the Hawai'i State House Finance Committee,

I am a child, adolescent, and adult psychiatrist on O'ahu writing in support of comprehensive training for teachers and educational officers on sexual health topics, including accurate information on sexual and gender minorities and persons of color.

Mahalo for your consideration and support of health education inclusive of all.

Jaime Stevens, MD, MPH, FAPA

HB-1697-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2022 9:19:55 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/1/2022 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Anika Martin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I strongly support HB1697 HD1, which would provide training and support for educators in the effort to ensure that our keiki receive positive and accurate representation of all genders, sexual orientations, and people of color. Current research shows that majority of discussions in and out of school settings, regarding sexual health, take a heterosexual stance (Estes, 2017). In fact, only 17 out of 50 United States require coverage on different sexual orientations, whereas only seven states require only negative information to be given on different sexual orientations other than heterosexuality (Guttmacher Institute, 2020). Furthermore, according to the Gay Lesbian and Straight Education Network (2016) less than five percent of LGBTQIA+ students reported having positive discussions on different sexualities in their classes.

It is reported that students of the LGBTQIA+ population feel victimized as sexual minorities which affects their academic experience, according to Russel and Fish (2016). Russel and Fish (2016) also mention that students, who identify as non-heterosexual, experience lower grade-point averages, lack of motivation to attend classes, poor social skills, and substance abuse. Furthermore, lack of coverage on different sexual orientations in school may lead to oppression, negative stigmatization, and marginalization against LGBT+ students (Estes, 2017).

This bill is important to me because I care about investing in the provision of quality education for our future community leaders. A supportive environment is essential for students to feel accepted, and a critical factor to decreasing detrimental social, mental, and physical effects. The creation of a supportive educational environment helps students of different genders, sexual orientations, and people of color reach their academic goals.

References

Estes, M. (2017). "If There's One Benefit, You're not Going to Get Pregnant": the Sexual Miseducation of Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Individuals. *Sex Roles*, 77(9–10), 615–627. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11199-017-0749-8>

Gay Lesbian and Straight Education Network. (2016). *The Safe Space Kit: Guide to Being an Ally for LGBT Students* [Brochure]. Retrieved from

<https://www.glsen.org/sites/default/files/GLSEN%20Safe%20Space%20Kit.pdf>

Cuttmacher Institute. (2020, March 1). Sex and HIV Education State Laws and Policies. Retrieved March 8, 2020, from <https://www.guttmacher.org/state-policy/explore/sex-and-hiv-education>

Russell, S. T., & Fish, J. N. (2016). Mental Health in Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Youth. *Annual review of clinical psychology*, 12, 465–487.
<https://doi.org/10.1146/annurev-clinpsy-021815-093153>

HB-1697-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2022 9:20:56 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/1/2022 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Joseph E Summerfield	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Totally OPPOSE THIS PROPOSAL. Common Sense says it is WRONG

HB-1697-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2022 10:18:36 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/1/2022 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Ed Arcalas	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Dear Legislators of Hawaii,

I strongly plead that you oppose HB 1697. Education should not include indoctrination regarding sexual orientation. This bill mistakenly relates the issue to one's disability or ethnicity. In reality, this is a social engineering ploy that will be used to further corrupt the minds of our children as they are still in the development process.

Educators should focus on the academic success of their students. Some students in the secondary grade levels are unable to satisfactorily perform in fundamental academic areas such as reading, writing, and mathematics. The introduction of sexual orientation subject matter will further distract educators from establishing an excellent academic foundation for our children, grandchildren, and generations to come. One's position on sexual orientation should not be used as a vehicle to establish an agenda that has no place within our educational system.

Please DO NOT approve this worthless proposed legislation. It will not benefit our students and will gravely affect our community, State, and Nation.

HB-1697-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2022 10:19:26 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/1/2022 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Rebecca L Moody	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I **strongly** oppose this bill as these topics should be broached by a parent, depending on the age and maturity of their child. Not all children are able to process this kind of teaching at the same age, and parents know when their child is or is not ready. Also, children must be protected, and providing information in a more public arena and not an individual setting adds peer pressure to the mix and could easily confuse a child. Parents should always be the gatekeeper for what their children are taught. Again, I **STRONGLY** oppose this bill.

HB-1697-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2022 10:35:04 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/1/2022 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Derek Wong	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

This bill is not government's role and kuleana. The passing of this special interest bill is not in the best interest of your constituents. I doubt that your constituents in general, and parents in particular, approve and want to spend their hard earned tax dollars on this special interest program, contractual commitment and its implied agenda.

This bill is fraught with the unintended consequences of liability and abuse waiting to happen. See the following video link as one example of many incidents occurring in other states and countries. You don't want to be responsible for such incidents.

<https://youtu.be/opCR2g-9kN0>

This bill is not a good idea, and I urge you to do your due diligence and seek consensus with parents and confidential consultation with individual teachers before approving funding and proceeding any further.

HB-1697-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2022 10:51:59 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/1/2022 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Reuben Burke	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

First, I STRONGLY OPPOSE this HB1697 Bill, because this Bill will cause confusion in our schools with regards to our children. Sexual gender, racism, education and values are taught in the home; not on someone's opinion, or even through government schools . This Bill is NOT SEXUAL EDUCATION, BUT INDOCTRINATION of our children, grooming them to choose what gender they want to be. For certain, this Bill will give rise to the confusion of our way of life because not only does it go against GOD'S STANDARD, but children can choose to be a boy today, a girl tomorrow, then a boy again the next day, and so on and so forth. This opens the door to sexual abuse and sexual assault on our children, your children. A boy claiming to be a girl (when he is not by gender) can walk into the girl's bathroom and commit crimes if he chooses to. This Bill will open the door to these actions, and say they are ok, when clearly it is not.

Second, this Bill will usurp the authority over the FREEDOM of what parent's can or cannot teach their own children. And this is a big NO NO. The Bible says in Genesis 5:1-2, "**...in the day when God created man, He made them in the likeness of God. He created them MALE AND FEMALE, and He blessed them and named them Man in the day when they were created.**" The highest standard given to man for his protection, and to glorify God will always be founded on "GOD'S PRINCIPLES", as spoken to us in His Word, the Bible.

Last, the above are my reasons for STRONGLY OPPOSING this HB1697 Bill. I pray that our own Government Officials of Hawaii are convicted by the Lord on the decisions they make for the people of Hawaii, including our young keikis. From the beginning, a Government was supposed to make sure the people were living according to "GOD'S STANDARD". Officials were voted in to uphold this STANDARD. For many years now, the GOVERNMENT is guilty of leaving GOD'S HIGHEST STANDARD FOR HIS PEOPLE. Now, Governments have their OWN AGENDA. How sad. This Bill is NOT FOR THE BETTERMENT for the people of Hawaii. It will only LOWER OUR VALUE OF LIFE for ourselves, and the way we view others.

HB-1697-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2022 11:03:24 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/1/2022 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Sariena Hoffman	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

As a parent of a 3rd grader and approaching kindergarten I am opposed to HB1697. I volunteer and work with youth as well and have seen an increase of promotion of the thought process that parents can't be trusted or give guidance about sexual health. This is causing more harm, secrets and division about children and their parents. Schools should be promoting healthy family bonds and encouraging students to reach out to their parents regarding such intimate subjects. It is not the schools place to replace parents- especially in this area. Sexual health for those students who are struggling, questioning or curious can be made available without it being mandated for the whole class. School counselor can reach out to parents to help support their student who may need more help or knowledge.

HB-1697-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2022 11:12:11 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/1/2022 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Patti Yasuhara	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Please oppose this bill.

Thank you!

Patti Yasuhara

District 18 - Honolulu,HI

HB-1697-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2022 11:33:37 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/1/2022 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Nicole Kaleopaa	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments:

I am strongly opposed to HB1697 and would respectfully ask that you would kill this bill. In light of all of the other issues our State is facing, I do not think it would be wise to spend our tax dollars on a program that would create more problems than it would ever hope to fix. Furthermore, I believe that our schools should be focused on the more important subjects such as reading, writing, and arithmetic, rather than sexual health topics such as "lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer or questioning, intersex, asexual", etc. This bill also states that these topics are to be taught positively and accurately. I think that is a self-contradiction as these lifestyles are not healthy and there would be no way to teach them in a way that would be positive and accurate at the same time. Gay & transgender people are at an elevated risk for a variety of mental health risks, including anxiety disorders, depression, substance abuse, and suicide according to a report put out by scholars at John Hopkins University. This bill is written in such a way that shows that it is not being truthful in it's intent to have children make "responsible, informed, and empowered choices", but it is instead trying to indoctrinate our children to believe that these lifestyles are "positive". To try to twist the truth and teach these topics as healthy lifestyles would be a disservice to our children. All lifestyles are not equally healthy, nor should they be promoted, but every person, regardless of their lifestyle choice, should be treated with kindness and respect. In addition, this bill would also force many teachers to teach things that are not factual and go against their moral beliefs. Thank you for your time.

HB-1697-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2022 11:33:40 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/1/2022 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Diane Kraus	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose HB1697. Let children be informed by their parents on these sensitive sexual issues, when the parents see that need. These are topics to be discussed with parent and child. Young children should not have to be exposed to sexual topics in a classroom. Let children be children, not exposed to sexual ideas which do not even come to their minds.

Thank you,

Diane Kraus

HB-1697-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2022 11:45:13 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/1/2022 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
shalane	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I strongly oppose bill HB1697!

HB-1697-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2022 11:47:02 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/1/2022 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Celia Ona	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

OPPOSED

HB-1697-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2022 11:48:26 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/1/2022 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Rita Wong	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I absolutely oppose this bill!! This is not sex education, it's indoctrination & has no place in our schools! It sets our children up for confusion and sex abuse. Values are to be taught in the home not through government schools.

HB-1697-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2022 11:53:16 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/1/2022 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Paul Costigan	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Gender Dysphoria is classified as a psychiatric mental disorder. It has a bill-able medical code, F64. The medical definition of Gender Dysphoria: "clinically significant distress or impairment expressed, relating to a strong desire to be another gender, rejecting biological science, which may include going so far as to want to change/mutilate biologically born body parts, and/or secondary sex characteristics. So why do Democrats think this is a "progressive" step forward? This sounds more like grooming, recruiting for LGBTQ and psychological abuse. There is nothing in this bill that protects minors rights or parents rights from predatory overreach by the DOE whom still requires masking, which now goes against the CDC guidelines and recommendations as of Feb 28, 2022. What happened to trust the science? Let's not turn the classrooms into child activism training camps for the Democrats radical ideologies. This is just sick. If a parent thinks their child needs to see a psychiatrist for Gender Dysphoria, that's for the parent to figure out, not teachers poking and prodding asking sexual questions to minors whenever they feel like it.

Paul Costigan

HB-1697-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2022 11:58:30 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/1/2022 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Chantell Cambia	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I urge you to pass HB1697, which is where schools will provide and inclusive sex education, where it will include LGBTQ+ peoples. Sex education should not continue to meet the standards for those who are cisgender and straight. Do not exclude LGBTQ+ people from the conversation nor elevate the biases and stereotypes that are used against them. LGBTQ+ Kids should be able to have an education on sex that will help them learn and understand sex. Do not assume the same old type of sex education that has been given for years has help any child in school be able to learn and understand sex when it has only uphold cisheteronormativity and patriarchal standards. If a child, especially an LGBTQ+ child, is curious about what sex is, sex education should be accessible and provided for them to support them. Sex education should not continue to be an uncomfortable topic to discuss with children if they become curious and want to learn what it is. It is also where LGBTQ+ people, especially children, should be able to their LGBTQ existence to be acknowledged and be provided this education that will help them in the long run. Pass HB1697 now!

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair

Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 1, 2022

Olivia Cornejo

Support for H.B. 1697 HD1 - RELATING TO SEXUAL HEALTH EDUCATION.

Dear committee members, my name is Olivia Cornejo and I am a social worker earning my master's degree at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, specializing in health. I write to you today to offer testimony in **strong support** of H.B. 1697 HD1.

I strongly support H.B. 1697 HD1, which would provide training and support for educators in the effort to ensure that our keiki have positive and accurate representations of all genders, sexual orientations, and people of color. I believe having inclusive and accurate representation in sexual education is vital to making sure all young people have the same opportunities to learn and grow. Sexual education is vastly important to the development of young people, but if this education doesn't reflect the breadth of life experience, some students will suffer for it in their personal lives and relationships.

Please ensure that our educators are supported with the training they need to ensure our young people get the accurate and positive representations of sexual health they deserve.

Mahalo for your time and this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Olivia Cornejo

HB-1697-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2022 12:03:05 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/1/2022 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Mark White	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Luke and FIN Committee Members,

I strongly oppose HB1697,

Our schools have no business teaching this kind of needless, discriminatory and counter-educational subjects to our students. This subject matter is not the purview of schools which have enough of a job to do without wasting time teaching what is entirely the decision of parents and families.

This type of curriculum is destructive of Hawaii's traditional community relations and their supporting institutions that help children, parents, families, and elders coop with our increasingly difficult way of life and high cost of living on these islands. Don't allow this terrible measure to pass out of committee.. Defer indefinitely.

Mark White

Waikele, Waipahu

(808) 753-5323

HB-1697-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2022 12:04:58 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/1/2022 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Noelani Kaleopaa	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments:

Aloha Finance Committee and Legislative Leaders of Hawaii, I appreciate your attention to hearing my concerns regarding HB1697. As an educator in the Department of Education, I STRONGLY OPPOSE HB1697. This is a despicable bill! I believe that it's very important to leave subjects such as "SEXUAL HEALTH EDUCATION" to that of parents. No Committee nor Legislative Leaders of Hawaii should be making these types of decisions when it comes to our keiki. It is the kuleana (responsibility) of the child's parents who are their FIRST TEACHERS to raise them up accordingly in teaching and educating their own keiki ESPECIALLY regarding moral principles. When a child is born it is their "natural self identity". I believe, anything to change that; emotionally or physically is NOT their natural "self identity" and will cause psychological harm and can cause physical harm to the child.

As an educator in the Department of Education, it is my belief that this bill interferes with the true purpose for a student attending school. Core Subjects such as English, Math, Science, and Social Studies will prepare a child well for entering adulthood. I do believe however it is the God-given responsibility of the parent to educate their child regarding Sexual Health according to their own personal morals and beliefs. It behooves me to think that this Committee and Legislative Leaders of Hawaii would consider financing this bill with taxpayer dollars and overstep the boundaries of taking the place of a parent in making this kind of decision for their child.

PLEASE! LET PARENTS BE PARENTS!

Mahalo for your time and consideration!

Noelani Kaleopa'a

Concerned Register Voter and Taxpayer of Hawai'i

HB-1697-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2022 12:12:16 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/1/2022 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Racheal Fernandez	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB1697.

Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Vice Chair
Committee on Finance

Monday, February 28th, 2022

Support for HB1697 HD1: Relating to Sexual Education

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Yamashita, and Members of the Committee on Finance,

My name is Michael Jhay Yoro, a Junior (11) at Leilehua High School Student in Wahiawa. Currently an academic who is also Leilehua's Speech and Debate Captain and a prospect in looking at real change for the people around me. I am writing this to testify in FULL SUPPORT of HB1697. My time as a student from grades 7-11 so far has only provided me with one genuine class that goes over sexual education, and the entire framework of the class (specifically taken in 7th grade) was to teach students ABSTINENCE and CONDOM usage.

Keep in mind this core standard has not been changed or altered with the times. As students are becoming more open about their sexuality and their health it's important that teachers and people who these students are comfortable with find ways to help our Keiki to be safe sexually and to understand the people who are around them. People will argue that this is a talk parents should have with their kids, or this is something that doesn't belong in the classroom. I beg to differ as the place where students get to know one another and learn about themselves is with their educators and peers.

This bill does address the stigmas held against LGBTQ+ and BIPOC Communities, we have to keep in mind that these stigmas and prejudices won't end with one generation but if we can build it as time goes on we can fix and mitigate issues of sexism, homophobia, transphobia, and ableism. Comprehensive sex education in this case should be a stepping stone for a better core Health class which would even help the economics of citizens and the state by spending less on drug and the homeless crisis in the future. Health is not only sexual, it should be all encompassing which is why this bill will help us move to a more accepting and safer future, as the current status quo of abstinence and STD prevention don't stop sexual abuse, or prevent STD, its only a by product of weak action, so take strong action and affirm this bill.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

HB-1697-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2022 12:24:37 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/1/2022 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kehaulani Tarita Tehotu	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments:

RELATING TO SEXUAL HEALTH EDUCATION.

I Oppose HB1697!!!

IS THIS A PRIORITY?! REALLY ???

What's The Intent Of This Bill?

We Have A Hard Time Taking Care And Providing For Our Children's Fundamental Requirements That Are NOT being provide in the school system.

STICK TO THE BASIC NEEDS OF ALL STUDENTS OF THE PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM.
This HB 1697 is not a PRIORITY.

Provide for Children With Learning Disability Such As Dyslexia Or Speech, Hearing Deficit Etc. and what about children with English As A Second Language.

What Is The Fiscal Budget That You Have?

The Need For Addition Education?

So How Do You Prioritize That?

Basic Access? How Do Your Create Equity?

Money going to this new program instead of going to our children's school education. This is misleading and false expectations assumed real.

Creating NEW Jobs For Our Teachers To Learn Something They Are Not Qualified To Teach WILL COST THE TAX PAYERS MONEY Because The Teachers Are Going To Ask For A Raise And The Principles And Vice Principles Are Going To Ask For A Raise.

WHERE'S THE BUDGET?

TAXPAYERS Who Do Not Agree with This Type Of Education For Their Children Will End Up PAYING FOR SOMETHING THEY DONT WANT TAUGHT TO THEIR CHILDREN IN The School System.

Kill this Bill

HB-1697-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2022 12:29:23 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/1/2022 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Dave Willweber	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Monday, February 28, 2022

Relating to Sexual Health Education

Testifying in Strong Opposition

Aloha Chair and members of the committee,

This bill states “the department shall offer comprehensive training for teachers and educational officers on sexual health topics that include *positive and accurate representations* of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender,” etc. (emphasis mine).

This statement brings up some very obvious questions...

- What if accurate representations of the sexual lifestyles listed in the bill are not positive in reality? Conversely, what if a positive representation of these lifestyles contradicts an accurate representation of these lifestyles? Which will win out, the “positive” or the “accurate”? Accurate according to research or “accurate” according to someone’s experience? Which will win out if the majority of the research contradicts someone’s experience and testimony?
- Would the instructors of this so called “comprehensive” training forego the negative consequences of these sexual lifestyles in order to present a positive representation of these lifestyles? If the trainers neglect to mention negative consequences of these lifestyles, how “comprehensive” will it truly be?
- If a person reflects on a just a few of these lifestyles for just a few moments, one can begin to imagine both dangerous and potentially irreparable damage that could be done to a young person. Keep in mind according to adolescent development that brains are not

fully matured until around 25. Adolescents tend to act on emotion and making choices based on acceptance/belonging even when it could be destructive to themselves. Gender confusion and/or dysphoria tends to clear up as adolescents get older. To be encouraged to act on life altering choices while an adolescent is unwise, even cruel. Some examples of the lifestyles that could bring dangerous and devastating consequences...

- Those who would identify as transgendered would be encouraged to take opposite sex hormones and/or take on body altering surgery. **A real life example would be helpful here...on Nov 13, 2021 I attended the HSTA sponsored zoom mtg “Transgender 101 for Educators”. The facilitators encouraged student expression and coming out and the “logical” next steps of taking hormones. There was no pros and cons list associated with taking opposite sex hormones. There was zero mention of any negative effects. Zero testimonies were given from youth who have initiated hormone therapy and regretted their decision. There was no mention of the physical, mental, psychological confusion that a youth goes through as they “transition” because their endocrine system is whacked out. This is child abuse. And if this bill passes, I hope youth, parents, and guardians will sue for such irresponsible life altering, irreparable consequences of this teaching. This example provides a lens of how *positive* representation and *accurate* representation will be portrayed with all of the sexual behaviors listed in the bill.** A truly comprehensive approach would discuss all ramifications of a decision that is being encouraged and promoted.
- Bisexuals have sex with both biological sexes. Inherent in this definition is multiple partners. The more partners, the greater the risk of STD’s and emotional & psychological & relational damage.
- The bill includes “other sexual orientations.” I have seen lists of over 100 sexual orientations. One of which is “youth attracted adults,” also know as pedophilia. Another orientation is polyamory, actively loving several people at the same time. Another orientation is animal attracted adults. Again, consider for a moment what the impact of teaching all of these different orientations to impressionable youth. It will “look” like one Las Vegas buffet where all the dishes are laid out as if all equally beneficial and appealing.

This bill *sounds* good because it uses such positive words, such as... health, empowering, comprehensive, positive, sexual health, reproductive health, relationships, informed choices, safe. **This bill should define every single term** because the way these terms will be used in instruction to children will be very different than what parents, guardians, aunties, uncles, will be thinking these words mean. **Every training and every curriculum should be available for everyone to see, including CURRENT ones that have already crept into the DOE.** I have researched “comprehensive” “sex” “education” (CSE) and the result of teaching is the EXACT OPPOSITE of all of those positive sounding words in the bill.

MAIN POINT of what is written below: Comprehensive sex education has failed at every level, except one, it has succeeded in it's primary stated goal... to change society as we have known it. See research and websites below.

SOLUTION: If we really care about optimal wholistic health for children (and do not want to use children as pawns for societal change), there is only one positive message regarding sex that leads to optimal sexual health....delay, delay, delay ALL sexual activity until a young person chooses to commit to a long term exclusively monogamous relationship (lifelong marriage is the ideal/standard) to engage in sexual activity. Teachers ought to be trained in this solution as well as the research below if we truly desire the optimal wholistic health for children. According to the way this bill is stated, the actual solution as I have laid out in the above paragraph is the problem. So, let's not add water to put out the fire, let's add gasoline to put out the fire.

I had a lot more but ran out of space

HB-1697-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2022 1:29:46 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/1/2022 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
yvonne mahelona	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha I am Yvonne Mahelona a constituent of Honolulu County, a Birthworker and midwifery student, grassroots organizer and most importantly Kanaka Oiwi, a Native of this so called state. I am encouraging you to pass HB 1697 SD1 requiring the state's Department of Education to provide sexual education that teaches gender and sexual diversity and combats gender stereotypes. Indigenous communities around the world have histories of people who didn't conform to the Western patriarchal gender binary. Kanaka Oiwi, Native Hawaiians, knew and honored mahu, a gender all its own or of both masculine and feminine, as a natural and very normal part of our communities. They were our healers, so they played quite an imperative role in our communities. Indigenous communities worldwide share similar history. The drop out rates of gender non conforming students in our public school systems shows very clearly that gender non conforming keiki do not feel they are honored, protected or even seen as valid people in their schools and community. Investing in training, updating and acquiring sexual education programs and personnel who specialize in this type of work is the first step in ensuring we are protecting the children who need it most and who are pushed into the darkest corners of the margin time and time again.

Mahu are imperative to a just future here in Hawai'i.

Mahalo,

YM

HB-1697-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2022 2:24:38 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/1/2022 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Krista Vessell	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

As a mother of 3 children and resident of O'ahu, I strongly oppose HB 1697 on the grounds that it does not provide enough details on the changes that are to be made to current Sex Education materials. I have tried to ask Rep. Amy Perruso for more information numerous times, and have always received deflection and avoidance in her responses, and this is very troubling. While I absolutely agree that educators should be informed on the difficulties and hardships that LGBTQIA+ students face, that sex ed in schools should include details on safe sex practices, and the dangerous of abuse towards LGBTQIA+ people, I do not agree that this should include normalizing "non-traditional" sex acts to children. Because this has been a part of other state's "reforms" to sexual health education, I have tried to ask if the changes proposed in this bill intend to include information on "non-traditional" sex acts, and have not gotten an answer, so I must assume this is a possibility. The biological function of sexual reproduction and transmission of diseases is something non-sexual in itself, and a scientific approach to the topic should be taught as just that - biology. However, when it comes to teaching children about exploring their bodies and details of sexuality and sex acts, this should be something that is considered with respect to a child's personal situation. Has the child been sexually abused? Is the child sexually active? Is the child truly LGBTQIA+ or just "going through a phase"? And is this information being shown to children as young as 10 truly "age-appropriate"? Exposing children who aren't sexually curious, aren't questioning their identities (regardless of whether they are LGBTQIA+ or not), or have been sexually abused to explicit material could do them harm, and I do feel that this topic is best addressed at home or through one-on-one counseling as needed and NOT the classroom.

I just want to reiterate that I DO support LGBTQIA+ "positive affirmation" such as accurate representation in social studies (aka. including the orientation/identity of famous people in history and any oppression they may have suffered due to it), destigmatization and anti-bullying. But I do NOT believe that teaching children the details of sexual behaviors and sex acts in an attempt to "normalize" LGBTQIA+ sex is part of this. Thank you for taking the time to read this, and I hope that more questions about the implications and ambiguity of this bill will be asked before allowing it to be passed.

HB-1697-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2022 4:01:35 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/1/2022 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Ashley Galacgac	AF3IRM Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Yamashita, and Honorable Members of the Committee,

I write in strong support HB1697 HD1, which would provide training and support for educators in the effort to ensure that our keiki have positive and accurate representations of all genders, sexual orientations, and people of color. It's important because I believe in an inclusive and expansive curriculum where all students may see themselves reflected and encourages a supportive and safe learning environment. We have done several educational sessions with youth and they have shared about the lack of comprehensive sexual education at school and they have had to rely on their own research and wished they knew where to go. Empowered with education, youth may make more informed decisions.

Please ensure that our educators are supported with the training they need to ensure our young people get the accurate and positive representations of sexual health they deserve.

Mahalo for your time.

HB-1697-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2022 4:33:14 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/1/2022 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Cynthia Bartlett	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments:

This is not a sex education training added on to simply prevent stigmas, this is a new radical activism designed to end the old ideas of biological boys and girls.

This new sex education teaches that is the child's "gender identity" and not their biology which makes them male or female.

By teaching them that this "gender identity" is their "authentic self," disassociated from their own body, and that it is all about emotions and feelings, we are actively training children into a state of "gender dysphoria" as their new generational normal.

What do we really expect to happen? If a girl has interests that society is already telling her are "for boys" and she learns that how she feels is the criteria by which she should judge whether she is really a boy or a girl, what conclusion is she supposed to reach, other than "maybe I'm really a boy"?

No generation of children before this one has been taught an ideology in place of facts in an area so fundamental to how they understand themselves. We can expect to see the number of frightened and confused children rise.

Teachers are being trained as activists and think this is some kind of social justice to make the world better.

With this training school teachers and officials would be able to consult and advise and hire new agencies and experts on the taxpayer's money and without parent input.

Most secondary school sex gender education uses a series of dolls with exotic names and combinations – like pan romantic or ze pan and the school can keep this private away from parents knowledge. they do not have to tell the parents about private talks or name changes at school. School is labeled as a “safe place” – not the family and not the child's home.

Note to correct a line:

When then do they also add “people of color” why add disabilities”

Those 2 items are not genders and those categories are not sex education – delete that from the sex list

School sex education train teachers to discuss gender with individual students without parents knowledge. Many schools allow a name change at school without telling parents

This sex education covers the basics of gender health. Advising the student that there are medicines and surgeries that can protect them from experiencing puberty.

Without a voting school board where is the input from parents? Now we have a bill that just passed the HOuse that can throw a misdemeanor at a parent for interfering/

No teacher knows the child the way a parent does. This drives a wedge between a family and child.

How would you feel if your son or daughter you hoped would one day carry on the family with grandchildren announced they were now pan romantic and wanted a surgery that would make them sterile.

There is an ideology and an activism behind this extreme push for gender sex education that will lead to lower birth rates and a general anti nuclear family worldview.

HB-1697-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2022 6:03:39 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/1/2022 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Alexa St Martin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill

HB-1697-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2022 8:20:59 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/1/2022 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Cris Gibbons	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

This should not be a school's responsibility to teach, but rather a family's responsibility. A school is supposed to get a child ready for either college or prepare them with the basic skills to get a job when they graduate. It's job is to NOT to teach this highly inappropriate sexual content. Nowadays sex is in everyone's faces. It's all over the radio, the movies... we have pride month, rainbow flags everywhere and a very "gay positive" atmosphere here in Hawaii. A lot of our kids don't even know their basic Constitutional rights let alone how to write a basic essay and you want to teach them all about "who prefers to have sex with who" and other unnecessary content?! Please consider NOT passing this bill.

HB-1697-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2022 8:26:31 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/1/2022 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Jacqueline Bosman	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

For all in consideration of this bill- HB1697,

It is not a school or it's faculties place to be teaching our keiki about sex in this way. There are explicit components to this and they are very much inappropriate for a range of ages this would be considered for. Will parents know this is being offered to their kids ahead of time and in a fashion that reveals the utmost transparency? Seeing as this bill was scheduled so short notice to prevent a proper call for testimony, I am guessing the answer to that is, No. Please be fair and let families have the personal choice to educate further on topics of sex as those in this Bill. At very least there must be option to opt out if this goes any further. May we err on the side of caution when it comes to exposing our keiki to too much too soon, especially after the last two years they have had-- very traumatizing at that!

A very concerned citizen,

Jacqueline

HB-1697-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2022 8:28:40 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/1/2022 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Alan Koons	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

This is an atrocious bill and should be killed without question. This type of nonsense should not be taught, nor promoted in schools. It not only confuses children, but brainwashes them and teaches them false science. There are no more than 2 genders. Aside from the gender issue, teaching kids about sexual preference is also dangerous and confusing. Especially when their bodies and hormones are still developing. What if we started teach people that they can identify as a different ethnicity? Where does it end? I strongly oppose this bill and am ashamed of those that brought it to the table..

HB-1697-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2022 8:38:54 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/1/2022 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Laura Ramirez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I strongly support HB1697 and urge you to pass this bill so that all students receive relevant and inclusive education that does not discriminate against them no matter how they identify.

Mahalo,

Laura Ramirez

Kapa'a, Kaua'i

HB-1697-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2022 8:42:50 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/1/2022 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Carlen Koons	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

This is confusing for our children's development.

HB-1697-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2022 8:49:08 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/1/2022 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Sarah McKay	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose this bill.

HB-1697-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2022 10:22:34 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/1/2022 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Janice Giles	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Dear legislature,

I am writing in regards to HB 1697. I am opposed to this. I am a parent of 2 kids, one in elementary school and one in middle school. I believe that parents or guardians should teach their children about sex. There is so much going on in this world and I believe this curriculum would be confusing for all children. Kids are very impressionable. They should be able to make decisions on their own when they are adults, without being presented with pornographic material too early.

I hope you take my testimony into consideration.

Much aloha, Janice Giles

HB-1697-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2022 10:32:37 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/1/2022 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
anthony clifford ornellas Jr	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill as it is being presented and in any other words or format. This subject is a matter that should not be introduced by a teacher to our children. This should be done at the disgression of parents in the privacy of our own homes. Who was this discussed with by our representatives. Is it a legislators responsibility to promote your own personal agenda or the agenda of the public and constituents that you represent. I vote a strong no for this!!!

HB-1697-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2022 10:38:28 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/1/2022 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Alani Bagcal	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha e Chair, Vice Chair and members of the committee,

My name is Alani Bagcal and I ask you to please support and pass HB1697 HD1. I am 26 years old, and I believe it's so necessary and beneficial for the DOE to provide comprehensive sex education that teaches and celebrates gender and sexual diversity and inclusivity. Our youth deserve to have comprehensive education about gender and sexuality that goes beyond the heteronormative binary.

Please pass HB 1697 HD1. Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

Alani Bagcal

HB-1697-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2022 9:28:41 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/1/2022 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Christine Kapiioho	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support HB 1697 HD1, which would provide training and support for educators in the effort to ensure that our keiki have positive and accurate representations of all genders, sexual orientations, and people of color. It's important to me because I believe **knowledge can help ALL individuals to support one another in a positive way.**

Please ensure that our educators are supported with the training they need to ensure our young people get the accurate and positive representations of sexual health they deserve.

Mahalo for your time,

Christine Kapi'ioho

HB-1697-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2022 11:05:18 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/1/2022 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Cathy Velasco	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

As a parent and a tax payer. I fully disagree to allow Department of Education and all grade schools (High schools departments and below) to have students who are not adults and not mentally, socially, physically, pschycologically fully matured to even learn about sexual health education which another term I call it pornography. This subject need to keep out of these young innocent students. They are not adults and not legal to even to speak up to express their emotions or opinions if they are uncomfortable learning this. You cannot question science because there are only 2 main genders which is male and female. Department of Education, schools and teachers should prioritize students who have difficulty understanding math, reading, languages. If health is a very concern topic then why not focused more on teaching students about good health, food nutrients for a healthy daily life.