

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
KA 'OIHANA HO'ONA'AUAO
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

December 22, 2022

The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi, President
and Members of the Senate
State Capitol, Room 409
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

The Honorable Scott K. Saiki, Speaker
and Members of the House of Representatives
State Capitol, Room 431
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear President Kouchi, Speaker Saiki, and Members of the Legislature:

For your information and consideration, I am transmitting a copy of the report, Erin's Law Curriculum and Training, pursuant to Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 216, H.D. 1 (2022). In accordance with Section 93-16, Hawaii Revised Statutes, I am also informing you that the report may be viewed electronically at: <http://www.hawaiipublicschools.org/VisionForSuccess/SchoolDataAndReports/StateReports/Pages/Legislative-reports.aspx>.

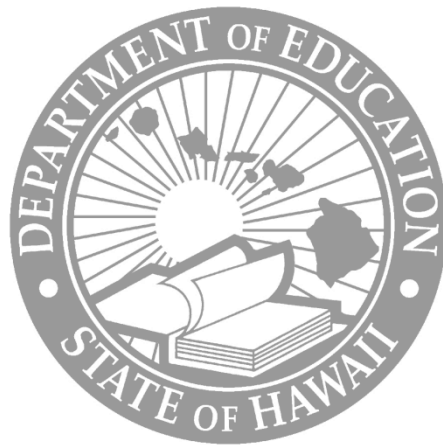
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Keith T. Hayashi".

Keith T. Hayashi
Superintendent

KTH:bs

c: Legislative Reference Bureau
Hawaii State Public Library System
University of Hawaii
Office of Student Support Services



State of Hawaii
Department of Education

Report on Erin's Law Curriculum and Training

December 2022

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 216, Session Laws of Hawaii 2022, requires the Hawaii State Department of Education to report on its existing child sexual abuse curriculum and training program's alignment with the provisions of Erin's Law.

ERIN'S LAW LEGISLATIVE REPORT

CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE DEFINITION

The following definition of child sexual abuse was developed by the Sex Abuse Treatment Center of Hawaii (SATC):

Child sexual abuse is defined as sexual activity between an adult and a child or sexual activity between two minors if there is a significant age, size, or power difference. It can include a range of activities such as sexual touching, sexualized talk, exposure to genitals, rape, involvement in pornography, or prostitution. Child sexual abuse is nearly always perpetrated by individuals acquainted with the child, may occur over short or long periods of time, and may be accompanied by varying levels of coercion or physical violence. (SATC, n.d.)

These definitions can be found in Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS): [§350-1 Definitions](#), [§707-733.6 Continuous sexual assault of a minor under the age of fourteen years](#), [§707-750 Promoting child abuse in the first degree](#), [§707-756 Electronic enticement of a child in the first degree](#), and [§846F-2 Definitions](#).

FINDINGS

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) has current partnerships, online resources, and instructional materials available, however, implementation is optional. Given its current funding and resources, the Department does not have the ability to require and roll out a child sexual abuse prevention program for all students, school personnel, and parents/guardians system-wide but recognizes its importance and is committed to the ongoing safety and well-being of all students.

Child Sexual Abuse Prevention for School Personnel

Summary

While the Department collaborates with various government and community-based agencies to deliver various types of education, resources, activities, strategies, and workshops to students, faculty, complex area staff, and school communities, it may not always be child sexual abuse specific. Each school, complex area, and school community has discretion on how to implement child sexual abuse education. The Department does not require child sexual abuse training for school personnel.

Findings

The Department remains committed to protecting students through strong, community-based, non-profit and government partnerships that raise awareness and offer resources, training, workshops, and activities to school and complex area personnel that address childhood sexual abuse.

During School Year (SY) 2019-2020, the Department convened the Sexual Violence Prevention working group, a public/private sector group of community and child-serving organizations, to discuss issues around sexual violence prevention in Department school communities and develop a public resource repository for any agency interested in training, information, and programming for their organization.

These agencies offer developmentally appropriate sexual violence prevention resources, which may include information, counseling, consultation services, educational sessions, training, and workshops for students, parent(s)/legal guardian(s), Department staff, and the community. The working group developed an online resource, "Sexual Violence Prevention Resource for Schools," that is easily accessible and houses sexual violence prevention resources and supports for schools and school communities.

The Sexual Violence Prevention Working Group consists of members from the following agencies:

- SATC at Kapiolani Medical Center for Women & Children;
- Pacific Survivor Center;
- Young Women's Christian Association;
- Hawaii Youth Services Network;
- Catholic Charities Hawaii;
- Hawaii State Department of Education;
- Hawaii State Department of Health;
- Hawaii State Department of Human Services; and
- Hawaii State Department of the Attorney General.

The Sexual Violence Prevention website can be found here:

<https://sites.google.com/k12.hi.us/hidoe-svp>.

Currently, the Department collaborates with the Susannah Wesley Community Center, Pacific Survivor Center, and Hoola Na Pua to deliver sex trafficking prevention and response education, resources, activities, strategies, and workshops to students, faculty, complex area staff, and school communities. Sexually exploited children training/programming has been delivered at numerous middle/intermediate and high schools, complex areas, and district offices throughout the state with the goal of delivering training and programming to all middle/intermediate and high schools. Although in-person program delivery has been disrupted as a result of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, virtual programming continues to grow and in-person delivery has resumed.

The Department, with our community partners, Pacific Survivor Center, the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney, City and County of Honolulu, and Hoola Na Pua, offered professional development opportunities around sex trafficking awareness, warning signs, risk factors, and indicators at no cost to Department employees who work with or support those who work with secondary students. The professional development was offered state-wide in July of 2021 and again in Fall 2021.

Additionally, SATC at Kapiolani Medical Center is available to provide curriculum training at any Department school. SATC offered the following sexual violence prevention trainings to Department employees during the summer of 2021:

Sexual Violence Overview

This presentation provided an overview of sexual violence and its prevalence. Other topics included sexual abuse indicators for young children and teens, dynamics of disclosures, victim rights, and SATC services.

Preventing Sexual Grooming

Participants gained an understanding of the sexual grooming process, strategies to help prevent and offset offenders' sexual grooming behaviors, and learned how protective factors enable individuals and organizations to safeguard children, families, and the community from sexual victimization.

Online Safety

Children are spending an unprecedented amount of time on electronic devices. While online spaces help us stay socially connected, educated, and entertained, there is also a risk that children may encounter uncomfortable or high-risk situations. Participants learned about red flags and warning signs of these risks and strategies on how to help keep children safe online.

K-12 Sexual Violence Prevention Curricula (“Train-the-Educator”)

SATC provides curricula training for school staff, including teachers, counselors, school-based behavioral health (SBBH) staff, and administrators, on an ongoing basis. SATC has a series of four curricula (K-12) designed to protect children from the serious impacts of sexual violence and to promote safe, respectful relationships. Through the training, participants will learn about the dynamics of sexual violence, responding to student disclosures of sexual violence, and curriculum implementation.

The Hawaii State Department of Human Services, Child Welfare Services Staff Development Office offers continuous, ongoing training to Department schools regarding mandatory reporting of suspected child abuse. Additionally, all Department employees, including certificated and classified staff, substitutes, casual hires, temporary hires, volunteers, contractors, and new hires, are required to review the annual mandatory reporter memorandum and annually required training on mandatory reporting (child abuse reporting).

The Department is also a member of the Hawaii State Commercially Sexually Exploited Children Steering Committee, Interagency Advisory Council, The Hawaii Children's Trust Fund, and numerous other groups focused on child safety.

The Department's "Here to Help" movement aims to raise student and family awareness of the resources to communicate to our school communities that Department employees are committed to cultivating safe and caring environments that foster healthy social and emotional development of students. Additionally, these environments ensure equitable access to supportive learning conditions and mental health resources. Supportive environments include providing safe spaces, school-based well-being supports and services available in these focus areas.

In addition, the Department sits on various steering committees with other agencies for the purpose of building collective efficacy around prevention and response to childhood sexual abuse. The Department does not specifically require training for staff regarding child sexual abuse prevention, but this training is available as determined by the school.

Next Steps

The Department's next steps will be to:

- Explore expansion to the annual mandatory reporting training - add required child sexual abuse prevention module in partnership with SATC.

- Explore the reach of pre-service teachers through the University of Hawaii at Manoa teacher prep program - provide student teachers mandatory reporter training overview and sex trafficking overview, etc.
- Offer childhood sexual abuse training for school personnel on an ongoing basis statewide in partnership with SATC and other child-serving agencies.

Child Sexual Abuse Prevention for Parents and Guardians

Summary

Parents and legal guardians are not currently offered annual education about the warning signs of child sexual abuse or assistance, referral, or resource information to support sexually abused children and their families. However, the Department has built a network of community and government-based partners that are able to offer child sexual abuse prevention education to parents and legal guardians. The Department will continue to collaborate with these organizations to offer resources to parents and legal guardians across school communities.

Findings

The Department recognizes parents and legal guardians as foundational shareholders in all school communities and continues to rely on the supportive capacity of parents and legal guardians to partner with the Department in keeping students safe, healthy, and empowered. Parents and legal guardians are critical in supporting students' physical, social, and emotional well-being as partners in their child's education.

The Department recognized April 2022 as National Child Abuse Prevention Month and Sexual Assault Awareness Month and partnered with SATC to offer resources and community awareness opportunities for parents and legal guardians. Free workshops were presented by SATC for parents and legal guardians, and others in the school community and were offered for both elementary and secondary school levels. Participants learned child sexual abuse prevention strategies as well as the dynamics of disclosures and how to respond to them, protective factors, and SATC's K-12 sexual violence prevention curricula. The Department plans to continue its partnership with SATC by offering the training series once again during April 2023, along with an informational resource sheet.

Additionally, Hoola Na Pua, the Pacific Survivor Center, and the Susannah Wesley Community Center are also available to school communities to provide awareness and resources around commercial sexual exploitation of children to parents and legal guardians at no cost. The Sexual Violence Prevention Resource for Schools (<https://sites.google.com/k12.hi.us/hidoe-svp>) is a public website that parents and legal guardians may utilize to identify various sexual violence prevention resources.

Next Steps

The Department's next steps will be to:

- Offer child sexual abuse prevention workshops to parents and legal guardians in partnership with SATC including during the month of April, National Child Abuse Prevention and Sexual Assault Awareness Month.
- Develop a parent/guardian resource about the warning signs of child sexual abuse, plus needed assistance, referral, or resource information to support sexually abused children and their families.
- Continue to work with SATC to build parent resources which include the warning signs and indicators of child sexual abuse, characteristics of offenders, grooming behaviors and how to

discuss this topic with children and assistance, referral or resource information to support sexually abused children and their families.

Child Sexual Abuse Prevention for Students

Summary

Recommended instructional materials are available for implementation at each grade span (grades K-2, 3-5, 6-8, and 9-12). However, the Department does not specifically require instruction to students about techniques to recognize child sexual abuse and tell a trusted adult.

Findings

The Department implements the Hawaii State Board of Education (Board) Policy 103-5, Sexual Health Education, which includes developmentally appropriate instruction on healthy relationships that are based on mutual respect and affection and are free from violence, coercion, and intimidation. To support implementation, the Department provides a recommended list of vetted instructional materials for sexual health education and sexual violence prevention education, which includes lessons that address developmentally appropriate techniques to recognize child sexual abuse and tell a trusted adult.

To ensure that the Department provides high-quality health education that reflects evidence-informed practices and the growing body of research, instructional materials may be reviewed using the following tools and resources:

- National Health Education Standards, 2nd Edition (NHES);
- Health Education Curriculum Analysis Tool (HECAT); and
- Healthy, Safe, and Inclusive Messaging.

A description of these tools and resources is provided in [Reviewing Instructional Materials for Health Education](#). Additional information about sexual health education, including the requirements, recommendations, parent/guardian notification and opt-out process, and current list of recommended instructional materials, is available on the Department's public webpage for [Sexual Health Education](#).

Age-appropriate: Suitable for a particular age.

Developmentally appropriate: Suitable for children's physical, social, emotional, cognitive, and linguistic development. This approach considers social and cultural contexts and recognizes that development progresses at varying rates among children within an age group.

Evidence-based: An approach that is based on evidence gleaned from well-designed and well-implemented studies and considered to be effective in achieving a desired outcome. The effectiveness of a program or practice may be based on the study of a particular population or setting.

Evidence-informed (or Research-based): An approach that integrates research findings, practitioner expertise, and the people experiencing the program or practice. This approach allows for adaptation and innovation based on context.

Curricular and instructional decisions are based at the school and complex area levels to ensure that the resources align with the school design model as well as meet the needs of their students. Any curricula, which includes instructional materials, that are selected and/or designed for use in the Department's schools must align with the [Hawaii Core Standards](#) adopted by the Board.

As part of Cooperative Agreement PS18-1807 with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Department administers the School Health Profiles Survey (Profiles) biennially in the spring semester of even-numbered years in public secondary schools. In 2020, 93 lead health education teacher surveys (77% response rate) were submitted and are representative of all public secondary Department and charter schools containing at least one of grades 6 through 12 in Hawaii. Data from the [2020 Profiles](#) show that statewide:

- 40.2% of the Department's secondary schools taught students about recognizing and responding to sexual victimization and violence in a required course in any of grades 6, 7, or 8.
- 74.8% of the Department's secondary schools taught students about recognizing and responding to sexual victimization and violence in a required course in any of grades 9, 10, 11, or 12.

In addition, in the Spring semester of SY 2021-2022 as part of an internal survey to inform programmatic efforts, Department schools were asked whether they addressed child sexual abuse prevention (e.g., bodily autonomy, communicating personal boundaries, how to report sexual abuse, recognizing child sexual abuse, recognizing safe and unsafe touch, skills to reduce vulnerability) within Health Education instruction for students. 235 of the 257 Department schools responded (91% of Department schools responded). Among the respondents, 73 Department schools (31% of Department schools) provided child sexual abuse prevention instruction to students.

Next Steps

The Department's next steps will be to:

- Explore expansion of the Department's sexual health education requirements at each grade span that include child sexual abuse prevention, including developmentally appropriate techniques to recognize child sexual abuse and tell a trusted adult.
- Identify lessons within the existing recommended instructional materials for sexual violence prevention that specifically address developmentally appropriate techniques to recognize child sexual abuse and tell a trusted adult.
- Offer and promote professional development to educators to support the implementation of child sexual abuse prevention instruction to students.

Recommended Instructional Materials for Interpersonal Violence and Sexual Violence Prevention Education

Title	Interpersonal Violence and Sexual Violence Prevention				
	Grades K-2	Grades 3-5	Grades 6-8	Grades 9-12	Special Education
Dating Matters			✓ (Grades 6-7)		
Fight Child Abuse	✓	✓			
FLASH		✓ (Grades 4-6)		✓	✓ (Secondary)
HealthSmart	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Positive Prevention PLUS		✓ (Grades 4-6)	✓	✓	✓ (Secondary)
Rights, Respect, Responsibility	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Second Step with the Bully Prevention and Child Protection Units	✓	✓	✓		
Title IX Essential Lessons Packs		✓	✓	✓	
The Sex Abuse Treatment Center’s Sexual Abuse Prevention Curriculum	✓	✓	✓	✓	

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Department currently offers training and recommended instructional materials related to preventing, recognizing, and responding to instances of child sexual abuse. However, implementation varies statewide, and resources are limited.

Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Component	Summary of the Department’s Next Steps
School Personnel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore expansion to the annual mandatory reporting training - add required child sexual abuse prevention module in partnership with SATC. • Explore the reach of pre-service teachers through the University of Hawaii at Manoa teacher prep program - provide student teachers mandatory reporter training overview and sex trafficking overview, etc. • Offer childhood sexual abuse training for school personnel on an ongoing basis statewide in partnership with SATC and other child-serving agencies.

Parents and Guardians	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offer child sexual abuse prevention workshops to parents and legal guardians in partnership with SATC including during the month of April, National Child Abuse Prevention and Sexual Assault Awareness Month. • Develop a parent/guardian resource about the warning signs of child sexual abuse, plus needed assistance, referral, or resource information to support sexually abused children and their families, and explore communication channels to distribute the developed parent/guardian resource. • Continue to work with SATC to build parent resources which include the warning signs and indicators of child sexual abuse, characteristics of offenders, grooming behaviors, and how to discuss this topic with children. Provide additional assistance, referral or resource information to support sexually abused children and their families.
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Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Component	Summary of the Department’s Next Steps
Students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify lessons within the existing recommended instructional materials for sexual violence prevention that specifically address developmentally appropriate techniques to recognize child sexual abuse and tell a trusted adult. • Promote instruction at each grade span on child sexual abuse prevention, including developmentally appropriate techniques to recognize child sexual abuse and tell a trusted adult. • Offer and promote professional development to educators to support the implementation of child sexual abuse prevention instruction to students.
Data Collection	Continue to internally survey schools on whether they address child sexual abuse prevention (e.g., bodily autonomy, communicating personal boundaries, how to report sexual abuse, recognizing child sexual abuse, recognizing safe and unsafe touch, skills to reduce vulnerability) within Health Education instruction for students.

The Department remains open to continue working with its stakeholders, including legislators and community partners, to ensure the health and safety of all students.

REFERENCE

The Sex Abuse Treatment Center of Kapiolani Medical Center for Women & Children [SATC]. (n.d.). *Child sexual abuse*. <https://satchawaii.org/about-sexual-violence/child-sex-abuse>