
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU TO CONDUCT A STUDY TO DETERMINE THE IMPLEMENTATION AND STANDARDS OF VARIOUS SEXUAL HEALTH EDUCATION POLICIES WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.

1 WHEREAS, sexual health education has a proven track record
2 of helping young people develop the knowledge and skills they
3 need to make healthy decisions about their relationships,
4 health, and future; and

5
6 WHEREAS, according to the Centers for Disease Control and
7 Prevention (CDC) 2020 School Health Profiles, only twenty
8 percent of Hawaii schools provided all twenty-two CDC-determined
9 critical sexual health education topics for grades 6, 7, or 8;
10 and only forty-eight percent of schools taught the critical
11 health topics required for grades 9, 10, 11, or 12; and

12
13 WHEREAS, only 38.8 percent of Hawaii secondary schools
14 taught students about diversity of sexual orientations and
15 gender identities in a required course in any of grades 6, 7, or
16 8; and only sixty-two percent of schools taught these topics for
17 grades 9, 10, 11, or 12; and

18
19 WHEREAS, only forty-three percent of Hawaii schools taught
20 students how to access valid and reliable information, products,
21 and services related to HIV, other sexually transmitted
22 diseases, and pregnancy in a required course in any of grades 6,
23 7, or 8; and only seventy-eight percent of schools taught these
24 topics for grades 9, 10, 11, or 12; and

25
26 WHEREAS, the CDC concluded that well-planned and executed
27 sexual health education is associated with delayed initiative of
28 sex, fewer sexual partners, and more widespread use of condoms;
29 and
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1 WHEREAS, considerable research, including from the CDC,
2 finds that abstinence-only education is ineffective at reducing
3 sexual risk behaviors and delaying sex; and
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5 WHEREAS, conversely, research shows comprehensive sexuality
6 education reduces sexual risk behaviors and sexually transmitted
7 infections while increasing protective sexual behaviors,
8 including increased condom and contraceptive use; and
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10 WHEREAS, a vast majority of people support sex education,
11 including over ninety percent of parents who support sex
12 education for middle and high school students; and
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14 WHEREAS, the Department of Health does not currently
15 collect public information or report about what sexual health
16 curriculum is taught by Hawaii public schools; and
17

18 WHEREAS, section 321-11.1, Hawaii Revised Statutes,
19 establishes the requirement that any state-funded sexuality
20 health education program provide medically accurate and factual
21 information that is age appropriate; and
22

23 WHEREAS, Hawaii's sexual health policies do not require
24 instruction that is inclusive of various diverse racial, ethnic,
25 gender, sexual, disability, and other identities that exist in
26 the State; and
27

28 WHEREAS, Hawaii's sexual health policies do not require
29 instruction explicitly about consent; and
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31 WHEREAS, the Board of Education amended Board Policy 103.5
32 on June 16, 2015, requiring the Department of Education to
33 implement sexual health education; and
34

35 WHEREAS, Board Policy 103.5 requires instruction to develop
36 students' knowledge and skills that support healthy
37 relationships, sexual health, and sexuality and emphasizes the
38 importance of encouraging students to communicate with their
39 parents, guardians, or other trusted adults and informs students
40 of available community resources; and
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1 WHEREAS, the Department of Education's 2020 Hawai'i School
2 Health Profiles: State and National Highlights Report
3 demonstrates that there has been a statistically significant
4 decrease in the volume of public schools teaching human
5 sexuality, HIV prevention, pregnancy prevention, and sexually
6 transmitted disease prevention; and
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8 WHEREAS, the National Health Education Standards in Hawai'i
9 states that sexual health should be addressed and informs
10 schools about which content areas must be covered; however, the
11 Standards do not give curricula guidelines or go into detail
12 regarding what topics should be discussed; and
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14 WHEREAS, evidence-based comprehensive sexual health
15 education includes instruction on human development, sexuality,
16 and reproduction; anatomy and physiology; consent; abstinence;
17 contraception; health relationships; and the prevention of
18 pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases; and
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20 WHEREAS, the sexual health curriculum should be appropriate
21 to the student's age and development; be medically and
22 scientifically accurate and informed by research and effective
23 practice; be consistent with the National Sexuality Education
24 Standards: Core Content and Skills, K-12; and be inclusive of
25 all students, including all LGBTQ and racial identities; and
26

27 WHEREAS, a review of the Department of Education's sexual
28 health education policies and standards is needed to ensure that
29 Hawaii's students are provided with the knowledge and tools
30 necessary to make responsible, informed, and empowered choices
31 about their sexuality, gender, relationships, and sexual and
32 reproductive health; now, therefore,
33

34 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
35 Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
36 Session of 2024, that the Legislative Reference Bureau is
37 requested to conduct a study to determine the Department of
38 Education's implementation of various sexual health education
39 policies and standards; and
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41 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Reference
42 Bureau is requested to include in its study:



