
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU TO CONDUCT A STUDY
TO EXAMINE 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 infections, and pregnancy in a required course in any of grades
23 6, 7, or 8; and only seventy-eight percent of schools taught
24 these 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

30



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
4

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
9

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
13

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
30

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
41



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 infection prevention; and
7

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
13

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 infections; and
19

20 WHEREAS, the sexual health curriculum should be:

- 21
- 22 (1) Appropriate to the student's age and development;
 - 23
 - 24 (2) Medically and scientifically accurate and informed by
25 research and effective practice;
 - 26
 - 27 (3) Consistent with the National Sexuality Education
28 Standards: Core Content and Skills, K-12; and
29
 - 30 (4) Inclusive of all students, including all LGBTQ and
31 racial identities; and
32

33 WHEREAS, a review of the Department of Education's sexual
34 health education policies and standards is needed to ensure that
35 Hawaii's students are provided with the knowledge and tools
36 necessary to make responsible, informed, and empowered choices
37 about their sexuality, gender, relationships, and sexual and
38 reproductive health; now, therefore,
39

40 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
41 Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
42 Session of 2024, that the Legislative Reference Bureau is



1 requested to conduct a study to examine the Department of
2 Education's implementation of various sexual health education
3 policies and standards; and
4

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Reference
6 Bureau is requested to include in its study:
7

8 (1) A summary of responses to a survey to determine:
9

10 (A) What sexual health education curriculum is
11 currently taught at schools, including a
12 breakdown of specific topics including but not
13 limited to those outlined above;
14

15 (B) Key reasons why in Hawaii schools, eighty percent
16 of grades 6, 7, and 8 are not receiving CDC-
17 determined sexual health education topics and why
18 fifty-two percent of grades 9, 10, 11, and 12 are
19 not being taught critical sexual health topics;
20 and
21

22 (C) Information on the types of resources schools and
23 teachers are currently offered and resources that
24 schools and teachers would need to be in
25 compliance with sexual health policies and laws;
26

27 provided that the Department of Education is requested
28 to assist the Legislative Reference Bureau by
29 distributing the Bureau's survey instrument to all
30 Department personnel involved with teaching,
31 developing, or evaluating sexual health education
32 curriculum and delivering the completed responses to
33 the Bureau by the dates specified by the Bureau;
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35 (2) A summary of current Department of Education or Board
36 of Education policies and standards relating to sexual
37 health education, copies of which the Department is
38 requested to provide to the Bureau no later than
39 June 1, 2024;
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- 1 (3) An assessment of whether the provided curriculum
- 2 complies with Department of Education policies and
- 3 statutory requirements; and
- 4
- 5 (4) Recommendations for evaluating and ensuring the
- 6 provision of evidence-based sexual health programming
- 7 in the future; and
- 8

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Reference
10 Bureau is requested to submit the study, including any findings,
11 recommendations, and proposed legislation, to the Legislature no
12 later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular
13 Session of 2025; and

14

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
16 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of
17 Education, Superintendent of Education, and Director of the
18 Legislative Reference Bureau.

