

MAR 08 2024

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# SENATE CONCURRENT 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  
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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  
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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  
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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  
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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;  
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WHEREAS, considerable research, including from the CDC, finds that abstinence-only education is ineffective at reducing sexual risk behaviors and delaying sex; and

WHEREAS, conversely, research shows comprehensive sexuality education reduces sexual risk behaviors and sexually transmitted infections while increasing protective sexual behaviors, including increased condom and contraceptive use; and

WHEREAS, a vast majority of people support sex education, including over ninety percent of parents who support sex education for middle and high school students; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Health does not currently collect public information or report about what sexual health curriculum is taught by Hawaii public schools; and

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

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

WHEREAS, Hawaii's sexual health policies do not require instruction explicitly about consent; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education amended Board Policy 103.5 on June 16, 2015, requiring the Department of Education to implement sexual health education; and

WHEREAS, Board Policy 103.5 requires instruction to develop students' knowledge and skills that support healthy relationships, sexual health, and sexuality and emphasizes the importance of encouraging students to communicate with their parents, guardians, or other trusted adults and informs students of available community resources; and



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  
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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,  
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34 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second  
35 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2024, the  
36 House of Representatives concurring, that the Legislative  
37 Reference Bureau is requested to conduct a study to determine  
38 the Department of Education's implementation of various sexual  
39 health education 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:

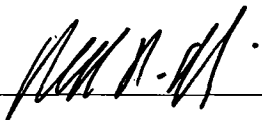


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- (1) A survey of what sexual health education curriculum is currently taught at schools, including a breakdown of specific topics including but not limited to those outlined above;
- (2) A report on whether the provided curriculum complies with Department of Education policies and statutory requirements;
- (3) Information on the types of resources schools and teachers are currently offered and resources that schools and teachers would need to be in compliance with sexual health policies and laws; and
- (4) A recommended mechanism for evaluating and providing quality control of evidence-based sexual health programming in the future; and

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

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

OFFERED BY:   
**By Request**