A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HEALTH.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

SECTION 1. The legislature finds that as of November 2008, twenty-five states, including California, Colorado, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maine, Montana, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Rhode Island, Wisconsin, Arizona, and Iowa, have saved millions of dollars by rejecting Title V federal dollars that require state matching funds. Title V federal dollars are required to be used for abstinence-only-until-marriage sex education programs, which have been found to be ineffective, inaccurate, and gender-biased.

Abstinence-only education teaches our youth only about abstinence from sexual activity, without teaching basic facts about contraception, sexually transmitted diseases, and human immunodeficiency virus. States that continue to take the Title V abstinence-only-until-marriage federal funds are prohibited by law from providing information about the health benefits of condoms and birth control in protecting young people from
unwanted pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections, and
human immunodeficiency virus.

In April 2007, a longitudinal study of two thousand
children commissioned by Congress found that teaching abstinence
does not keep teenagers from having sex nor does it increase the
likelihood that they will use contraception if they do. The
results essentially gutted the fundamental premise behind the
abstinence-only movement. The study concludes that,
"Abstinence-only [education] was an experiment that failed", an
experiment that is putting our children's health at risk.

In December 2004, a report titled "The Content of Federally
Funded Abstinence-Only Education Programs" was released that
evaluated "the content of the most popular abstinence-only
curricula used by grantees of the largest federal abstinence
initiative, Special Programs of Regional and National
Significance Community-Based Abstinence Education (SPRANS)."
The report concluded that "over eighty per cent of the
abstinence-only curricula, used by over two-thirds of the SPRANS
grantees in 2003, contain false, misleading, or distorted
information about reproductive health."

The legislature further finds that it is the policy of this
State to provide Hawaii's youth with reliable information
regarding contraception and protection from sexually transmitted
diseases as well as to provide our youth with comprehensive
sexuality education that empowers them to act responsibly and in
their best self-interest. The legislature further finds that
the federal abstinence-only-until-marriage education program is
not compatible with this goal.

The purpose of this Act is to assure comprehensive sex
education for Hawaii's youth and to reject programs and funding
for abstinence-only-until-marriage education programs.

SECTION 2. Chapter 302A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
and to read as follows:

"§302A- Comprehensive sex education. The State shall
reject all Title V federal funding for mandated abstinence-only-
until-marriage programs."

SECTION 3. Chapter 321, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
and to read as follows:

"§321- Comprehensive sex education. The State shall
reject all Title V federal funding for mandated abstinence-only-
until-marriage programs."

SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.
SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2020.
Report Title:
Ablstinence-Only Funding; Title V; Comprehensive Sex Education

Description:
Requires the State to reject all Title V federal funding for mandated abstinence-only-until-marriage programs. (HB329 HD1)