

JAN 23 2009

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO COMPREHENSIVE SEXUALITY HEALTH EDUCATION.

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

1 SECTION 1. The federal government spends over \$170,000,000
2 per year to subsidize states and community organizations that
3 provide abstinence-only-until-marriage sex education to youth in
4 the United States. Abstinence-only-until-marriage sex education
5 teaches that the expected standard of human sexual activity is a
6 monogamous, marital, heterosexual relationship and that sex
7 outside such a relationship is physically and psychologically
8 harmful. Abstinence only education advocates that abstinence is
9 the only method that can effectively prevent disease and
10 pregnancy and provides no additional information about
11 contraception or alternative methods of disease prevention.

12 In April 2007, a federally funded report found abstinence
13 only education to be ineffective. The study found that youth
14 receiving abstinence only education had the same abstinence
15 rate, average age at first intercourse, and average number of
16 sexual partners as youth who did not participate in abstinence
17 only programs. Report researchers concluded that the recent



1 decline in the rate of teen pregnancy in the United States is
2 most likely the result of improved use of contraception rather
3 than a decrease in sexual activity.

4 As of September 2008, twenty-five states have refused to
5 participate in abstinence only programs. These states instead
6 support a comprehensive sexuality education that provides
7 responsible, age appropriate instruction on the benefits of
8 abstinence as well as a variety of issues related to sexuality,
9 contraception, and disease prevention.

10 The purpose of this Act is to require any recipient of
11 state funding that provides sexuality health education to
12 provide medically accurate, factual, and comprehensive
13 information that is age appropriate and includes education on
14 abstinence and contraception.

15 SECTION 2. Chapter 321, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
16 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
17 and to read as follows:

18 "§321- Medically accurate sexuality health
19 education. (a) Sexuality health education funded by the
20 State shall provide medically accurate and factual
21 information that is age appropriate and includes education
22 on abstinence, contraception, and methods of disease



1 prevention for the prevention of pregnancy and sexually
2 transmitted disease, including human immunodeficiency
3 virus.

4 (b) For the purposes of this section:

5 "Age appropriate" means suitable to a particular age or age
6 group based on developing cognitive, emotional, and behavioral
7 capacity typical for that age or age group.

8 "Factual information" means medical, psychiatric,
9 psychological, empirical, or statistical information that is
10 verified or supported by research conducted by recognized
11 medical, psychiatric, psychological, and public health
12 professionals or organizations.

13 "Medically accurate" means verified or supported by
14 research conducted in compliance with accepted scientific
15 methods and recognized as accurate and objective by professional
16 organizations and agencies with expertise in the relevant field,
17 such as the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention,
18 the American Public Health Association, the American Academy of
19 Pediatrics, and the American College of Obstetricians and
20 Gynecologists.

21 "Sexuality health education" means education in any medium
22 regarding human development and sexuality, including education



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1 on pregnancy, family planning, and sexually transmitted
2 diseases."

3 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

4 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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Report Title:

Comprehensive Sexuality Health Education; Women's Caucus

Description:

Requires any recipient of state funding to provide medically accurate sexuality education.

