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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO EDUCATION.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that sexual abuse remains  
2 a serious and ongoing threat to the safety, health, and well-  
3 being of children and young people in the State.

4           Although programs and department of education-approved  
5 curricula currently exist in the State to provide training to  
6 school teachers and staff and sexual abuse prevention education  
7 to students, implementation is not consistent systemwide and  
8 resources for the provision of training and education are  
9 limited.

10           Consequently, students in Hawaii may not receive regular,  
11 consistent child abuse prevention education, and parents may not  
12 be informed about child sexual abuse topics. In addition, many  
13 school teachers and staff do not receive sufficient training on  
14 talking to students about child sexual abuse prevention, the  
15 effects of child sexual abuse on children, handling sexual abuse  
16 disclosures, and mandated reporting.



1           Laws requiring that public school systems implement a  
2 program of regular, consistent sexual abuse prevention education  
3 for students, teacher and staff training, and parental  
4 involvement have passed in twenty-eight states and the Territory  
5 of Guam and have been introduced in the legislatures of eighteen  
6 others. These laws represent a national trend in safety,  
7 health, and well-being education and are collectively referred  
8 to as "Erin's Law" after Erin Merryyn, an Illinois survivor of  
9 child sexual abuse, who has led the national movement for  
10 required programs for child sexual abuse prevention education.

11           The purpose of this Act is to form a task force to guide  
12 the establishment of a program to educate public school students  
13 on sexual abuse prevention through use of age appropriate  
14 curricula, provide relevant training to school teachers and  
15 staff, and inform parents about important child sexual abuse  
16 topics.

17           SECTION 2. (a) There is established the Erin's Law task  
18 force to be convened by the legislature to review current  
19 policies, programs, and curricula for educating students in the  
20 public school system about sexual abuse prevention and to report  
21 recommendations for the establishment of a program to educate



1 all children in grades pre-kindergarten through twelve in public  
2 schools on sexual abuse prevention through age appropriate  
3 curricula.

4 (b) The task force shall comprise:

- 5 (1) The superintendent of education, or the  
6 superintendent's designee;
- 7 (2) The director of health, or the director's designee;
- 8 (3) The director of human services, or the director's  
9 designee;
- 10 (4) The attorney general, or the attorney general's  
11 designee;
- 12 (5) The director of the executive office on early  
13 learning, or the director's designee;
- 14 (6) The executive director of the Hawaii Youth Services  
15 Network, or the executive director's designee;
- 16 (7) The executive director of the Sex Abuse Treatment  
17 Center, or the executive director's designee;
- 18 (8) The chairperson of the senate standing committee with  
19 primary jurisdiction over education, or the  
20 chairperson's designee;



- 1           (9) The chairperson of the house of representatives  
2           standing committee with primary jurisdiction over  
3           education, or the chairperson's designee;
- 4           (10) A representative of Planned Parenthood;
- 5           (11) An elementary school principal and a secondary school  
6           principal, to be designated by the superintendent of  
7           education;
- 8           (12) A representative from a charter school, to be  
9           designated by the executive director of the state  
10          public charter school commission;
- 11          (13) A public school teacher, to be designated by the  
12          Hawaii State Teachers Association;
- 13          (14) A sex trafficking victim service provider, to be  
14          designated by the Sex Abuse Treatment Center; and
- 15          (15) A non-profit after school provider, to be designated  
16          by the Hawaii Youth Services Network.
- 17          (c) The superintendent of education or the  
18          superintendent's designee shall serve as the chairperson of the  
19          task force.
- 20          (d) Members of the task force shall serve without  
21          compensation. No member shall be made subject to chapter 84,



1 Hawaii Revised Statutes, solely because of that member's  
2 participation as a member of the task force.

3 (e) The initial meeting of the task force shall be held no  
4 later than August 11, 2017.

5 (f) The task force shall consider the following concepts  
6 when reviewing current policies, programs, and curricula and  
7 making recommendations for the establishment of a program:

8 (1) Current resources available in the State for educating  
9 students in the public school system about sex  
10 trafficking and sexual abuse prevention;

11 (2) Existing gaps in child sex trafficking and sexual  
12 abuse prevention education, including education,  
13 training, and information as needed for students,  
14 school teachers and staff, and parents and guardians;

15 (3) The Hawaii content and performance standards;

16 (4) Required elements for an instructional program for  
17 students in grades pre-kindergarten through twelve,  
18 including:

19 (A) Techniques to teach children to recognize sexual  
20 abuse, equip them with skills to reduce their



- 1 vulnerability, and encourage them to report the  
2 abuse;
- 3 (B) Sessions of instruction to reinforce the concepts  
4 learned in the program;
- 5 (C) Sessions conducted annually, building on skills  
6 and knowledge learned in previous years;
- 7 (D) Developmentally-appropriate instruction for each  
8 grade level;
- 9 (E) Involvement of students as active learning  
10 participants through such methods as discussion,  
11 modeling, and role playing;
- 12 (F) Capacity to be delivered by a range of personnel  
13 and professionals, including teachers, school  
14 counselors, and outside agency prevention  
15 educators; provided that the personnel and  
16 professionals have a thorough knowledge of child  
17 sexual abuse, including how to respond  
18 appropriately to sexual abuse disclosures;
- 19 (G) An evaluation component with measurable outcomes;



- 1 (H) Instruction that is culturally sensitive and  
2 adaptable for use within varying school contexts,  
3 including age, race, and special needs;
- 4 (I) The use of evidence based, age appropriate  
5 curricula that use discussions, role plays,  
6 activities, books, or other appropriate  
7 educational materials and methods;
- 8 (J) A professional training component for  
9 administrators, teachers, and other school  
10 personnel on talking to students about child  
11 sexual abuse prevention, effects of child sexual  
12 abuse on children, handling of sexual abuse  
13 disclosures, and mandated reporting; and
- 14 (K) A component that encourages parental or  
15 guardian involvement within the child sexual  
16 abuse program, that informs parents or guardians  
17 about child sexual abuse topics, including  
18 discussion of child sexual abuse myths,  
19 characteristics of offenders, grooming behaviors,  
20 and how to discuss this topic with children;



1 (5) Public Law 92-318, Title IX of the federal Education  
2 Amendments of 1972, as amended, and any other federal  
3 and state laws and policies concerning public school  
4 systems' handling of sexual violence issues, to the  
5 extent that they relate to sexual abuse prevention  
6 education;

7 (6) Resources needed to implement a systemwide program for  
8 child sexual abuse prevention education; and

9 (7) Updates to laws or policies that assist in the  
10 implementation of a statewide program for child sexual  
11 abuse prevention education.

12 (g) The task force shall submit a report of its findings  
13 and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the  
14 legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of  
15 the regular session of 2018, and a follow-up report, including  
16 any additional proposed legislation, no later than twenty days  
17 prior to the convening of the regular session of 2019.

18 (h) The task force shall cease to exist on June 30, 2019.

19 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
20 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so  
21 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2017-2018 and





1 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal  
2 year 2018-2019 for the operations of the Erin's Law task force.

3 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department  
4 of education for the purposes of this Act.

5 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



**Report Title:**

Erin's Law Task Force; Education; Sexual Abuse; Sex Trafficking; Prevention; Appropriation

**Description:**

Creates and appropriates funds for Erin's Law Task Force to review policies, programs, and curricula for educating public school students about sexual abuse and sex trafficking prevention, and report recommendations for the establishment of a program to educate public school children on sexual abuse prevention through age appropriate curricula. Takes effect 7/1/2050. (SD2)

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