
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO SEXUAL VIOLENCE PREVENTION EDUCATION.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that children in our
2 community are exposed to sexual violence from a very young age.
3 Researchers estimate that one in four girls and one in six boys
4 will experience some form of sexual abuse before the age of
5 eighteen. The United States Department of Justice reports that
6 forty-four per cent of rape victims are under age eighteen.
7 Sixty-one per cent of victims who sought sex abuse treatment in
8 2003 were minors at the time of their assault. Four out of five
9 students report experiencing some form of sexual harassment
10 during their middle and high school years.

11 The legislature also finds that as child sexual and
12 physical abuse continues to escalate in Hawaii, so does the
13 juvenile crime rate, especially among boys. Male abuse victims
14 may be more prone to act out their trauma through violence
15 toward others. In some instances, boys replicate the violence
16 they suffered with violence toward others, including girls, in
17 order to vindicate their masculinity. While females tend to
18 turn their trauma inwards, the results are no less devastating.



1 Symptoms of child sexual abuse include fear and anxiety, sleep
2 disturbances, poor self-esteem, depression with underlying anger
3 and hostility, poor school performance, shame, guilt, and self-
4 destructive behavior.

5 The legislature also finds that it is necessary to provide
6 our children with the tools necessary to prevent becoming either
7 a victim or perpetrator of sex abuse, how to report sex abuse,
8 and why sexual violence occurs. While the Hawaii health
9 education standards address, in a static way, the causes of
10 unhealthy behaviors, the consequences of choosing them, and
11 abstaining from consensual sex, they do not develop in a dynamic
12 context the skills necessary to avoid committing acts of sexual
13 violence or becoming the victim of such acts.

14 The legislature also finds that, in the past decade, there
15 have been more than forty published evaluations of child sex
16 assault prevention programs for preschool and elementary school
17 age children. Effective programs have been shown to result in
18 knowledge gains, including the ability to identify inappropriate
19 touch, and increased self-protection skills, such as saying "no"
20 and a willingness to speak up about abuse. There also have been
21 various published evaluations of sexual assault prevention
22 programs targeting older children and young adults since the



1 1970s. Hawaii needs a curriculum that covers a range of topics
2 tailored to a student's grade level, from basic lessons on
3 topics such as saying "no" to unwanted touch and speaking up if
4 victimized to more advanced topics such as sexual harassment,
5 date rape drugs, sexual coercion in dating relationships and
6 cultural influences that contribute to sexual violence.

7 The purpose of this Act is to develop a sexual assault
8 prevention curriculum that will help Hawaii's public school
9 students identify sexually abusive situations, teach them how to
10 protect themselves, and to access help, if victimized. It is
11 also the purpose of this Act to encourage students to develop
12 healthy, respectful relationships and to participate in creating
13 a safe, sexual harassment free environment at school.

14 SECTION 2. (a) The department of education shall develop
15 a sexual assault prevention curriculum as part of its health
16 education curriculum. The curriculum shall feature multiple
17 lesson plans targeted at kindergarten through twelfth grade
18 students, a teacher-friendly lesson plan format, and flexible,
19 interactive learning activities for students.

20 (b) For preschool and elementary school age children, the
21 curriculum shall:



- 1 (1) Use developmentally appropriate language, content, and
- 2 teaching methods;
- 3 (2) Use behavior rehearsal, role playing, and feedback to
- 4 teach skills;
- 5 (3) Provide multiple sessions; and
- 6 (4) Use content that focuses on:
 - 7 (A) Helping children distinguish between appropriate
 - 8 and inappropriate touching;
 - 9 (B) Teaching children self-protection skills;
 - 10 (C) Stressing body ownership and self-pride;
 - 11 (D) Emphasizing that the child is never at fault in
 - 12 cases of sex assault; and
 - 13 (E) Involving parents.
- 14 (c) For middle and high school age children, the
- 15 curriculum shall:
 - 16 (1) Include a discussion of common rape myths;
 - 17 (2) Incorporate teaching scenarios that include at least
 - 18 one male victim;
 - 19 (3) Balance risk reduction strategies with the message
 - 20 that victims are not to blame;
 - 21 (4) Utilize local statistics;



- 1 (5) Focus on healthy behaviors in addition to negative
- 2 behaviors;
- 3 (6) Utilize multiple, interactive learning strategies;
- 4 (7) Avoid confrontational approaches that blame males; and
- 5 (8) Provide multiple sessions.

6 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
 7 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$500,000, or so much
 8 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2007-2008, and the
 9 same sum, or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
 10 2008-2009, for the development and implementation of a sexual
 11 violence prevention curriculum in compliance with this Act.

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

14 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2007.

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INTRODUCED BY:

John H. Kuroki

Mel Carroll

Josephine

Royana

John Deen

Joe
Maury B. Lee
Tom Waters



H.B. NO. 339

John C. De
K. L.

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Report Title:

Sexual Violence; Prevention; Education

Description:

Appropriates funds to the department of education to develop and implement a sexual violence prevention curriculum that will feature multiple, age appropriate lesson plans targeted at kindergarten through 12th grade students, a teacher-friendly lesson plan format, and flexible, interactive learning activities for students.

