
HOUSE RESOLUTION

RECOMMENDING THAT THE BOARD OF EDUCATION CONSIDER CHANGING ITS SEX EDUCATION POLICY IN THE SECONDARY SCHOOLS OF HAWAII FROM A PROGRAM OF ABSTINENCE-ONLY TO A COMPREHENSIVE, BALANCED, AND CONSISTENT SEX EDUCATION PROGRAM THAT INCLUDES ABSTINENCE AND THE USE OF CONTRACEPTIVES, AND MAKING THAT PROGRAM MANDATORY FOR GRADUATION.

1 WHEREAS, Hawaii ranks tenth in the nation for the
2 transmission of sexually transmitted diseases and twelfth in
3 teen pregnancies; and

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5 WHEREAS, according to a study by Columbia University and
6 Yale University, sex education programs that solely teach
7 abstinence, like the Board of Education's current policy, do not
8 have a significant impact on the rate of sexually transmitted
9 diseases or premarital sex; and

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11 WHEREAS, sex education programs are not offered in all
12 schools in Hawaii and are not required for graduation, many
13 students in Hawaii are not educated with the specific risks and
14 consequences of sexual intercourse; and

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16 WHEREAS, various programs discouraging premarital sex
17 exist, seventy per cent of young women and eighty per cent of
18 young men approve of premarital sex, according to a study
19 published in the Review of General Psychology; and

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21 WHEREAS, according to a study by the Guttmacher Institute,
22 despite the fact that comprehensive sex education programs have
23 increased the frequency of sexual interactions, those
24 comprehensive programs that encompass methods to engage in safe
25 sex have reduced the rates of sexually transmitted diseases and
26 pregnancy; and

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28 WHEREAS, it is the opinion of the Council of Chief State
29 School Officers that teen pregnancy and sexually transmitted
30 diseases can negatively impact a student's capacity to excel in
31 school; now, therefore,

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1 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
 2 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
 3 Session of 2008, that the 2007 Hawaii Secondary Student
 4 Conference recommends that the Board of Education review its
 5 policy of abstinence-only sex education, and adopt a mandatory,
 6 comprehensive, balanced, and consistent program that encompasses
 7 abstinence and the effective use of contraceptives to reduce the
 8 risks of sexually transmitted diseases and pregnancy; and
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10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 11 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor of the State of
 12 Hawaii, the Superintendent of Education, the Chairperson of the
 13 Board of Education, the Director of Health, and the principals
 14 of all Hawaii secondary schools, including the Director of the
 15 Hawaii Association of Independent Schools.
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OFFERED BY:

John M. ...

Arthur ...

Della A. ...

JAN 15 2008

