

JAN 18 2008

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 students in our
2 public schools are experiencing increased incidences of violence
3 and bullying. Indeed, throughout the world, violence and
4 killing are daily occurrences that adversely impact attitudes
5 and environments in smaller communities, even our schools. The
6 legislature further finds that efforts to combat the escalating
7 violence in our schools has been recently addressed by this
8 legislature in 2007, pursuant to house concurrent resolution
9 number 55, which requested the department of education to
10 conduct a study on the feasibility of integrating peace
11 education into the public school curriculum and report back to
12 the legislature with its findings on the issue.

13 One program that has met with great success in spreading
14 the message of peace and assisting in conflict resolution is the
15 second step program maintained by the Coalition for A Drug-Free
16 Hawaii. Implemented in partnership with Kaewai elementary
17 school, second step is a school-based violence prevention



1 program that includes curriculum that teaches students to alter
2 their attitudes, reduce impulsive and aggressive behavior, and
3 increase their level of social competence. Parental awareness
4 and involvement is a component of this program, which has been
5 adapted for native Hawaiian individuals through work with the
6 Kamehameha Schools' health, wellness, and family education
7 section. The success of this program serves as an example for
8 the positive effects of peace education for our youth.

9 Accordingly, the legislature remains committed to
10 furnishing our students with the necessary tools to cope with
11 issues of conflict and violence in their schools and everyday
12 lives. The institution of peace education into the current
13 public school curriculum will better equip our youth with the
14 skills to resolve conflicts, prevent violence, and build greater
15 character.

16 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds for the
17 incorporation of peace education into the current public school
18 curriculum, including funding for counselor training, expansion
19 of the peer education program, and the hiring of additional
20 substance abuse counselors.

21 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
22 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so



1 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2008-2009 for
2 the incorporation of peace education into the current public
3 school curriculum, including funding for counselor training,
4 expansion of the peer education program, and the hiring of
5 additional substance abuse counselors.

6 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
7 education for the purposes of this Act.

8 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2008.

9

INTRODUCED BY: *Sharonne Chun Oakland*



Report Title:

DOE; Peace Education; Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates funds for incorporating peace education in the current public school curriculum, including funding for counselor training, expansion of the peer education program, and the hiring of additional substance abuse counselors.

