

JAN 23 2008

SENATE CONCURRENT 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
4

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
10

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
15

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
20

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
27

28 WHEREAS, it is the opinion of the Council of Chief State
29 School Officers that teen pregnancy and sexually transmitted



1 diseases can negatively impact a student's capacity to excel in
2 school; now, therefore,

3
4 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth
5 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2008, the
6 House of Representatives concurring, that the 2007 Hawaii
7 Secondary Student Conference recommends that the Board of
8 Education review its policy of abstinence-only sex education,
9 and adopt a mandatory, comprehensive, balanced, and consistent
10 program that encompasses abstinence and the effective use of
11 contraceptives to reduce the risks of sexually transmitted
12 diseases and pregnancy; and

13
14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
15 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor of the
16 State of Hawaii, the Superintendent of Education, the
17 Chairperson of the Board of Education, the Director of Health,
18 and the principals of all Hawaii secondary schools, including
19 the Director of the Hawaii Association of Independent Schools.

20
21
22

OFFERED BY: *Suzanne Chun Oakland*

