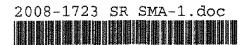
S.R. NO. 136

MAR 1 3 2008

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO EVALUATE THE NECESSITY OF MANDATORY HEALTH EDUCATION THAT INCLUDES MEDICALLY ACCURATE SEX EDUCATION IN INTERMEDIATE AND MIDDLE SCHOOLS.

WHEREAS, health education, including sex education for 1 2 fifth graders, is an important part of a student's education in 3 the elementary schools; and 4 WHEREAS, one semester of health education is a graduation 5 requirement for students in public high schools and is usually 6 offered in the ninth or tenth grades; and 7 8 WHEREAS, health education in intermediate and middle 9 schools, however, is increasingly becoming an elective instead 10 of a mandatory course because schools are placing much greater 11 emphasis on attaining Adequate Yearly Progress under the federal 12 13 No Child Left Behind Act; and 14 WHEREAS, sexual health and responsibility, mental and 15 emotional health, personal health and wellness, and promoting 16 safety and preventing violence and unintentional injury are 17 topics that should be covered under the Hawaii Content and 18 Performance Standards III; and 19 20 WHEREAS, the goal of standards-based school health 21 22 education is to help adolescents develop the essential skills 23 necessary to adopt and maintain healthy behaviors; and 24 WHEREAS, this goal cannot be met if health education is 25 considered an elective course of study; and 26 27 28 WHEREAS, teen pregnancy, abstinence, birth control, sexually transmitted diseases, HIV/AIDS, and how to deal with 29 30 peer pressure are topics that are covered under the health standards; and 31 32 WHEREAS, students need to receive these kinds of 33 information early and have it reinforced during their formative 34



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and transitional years, from elementary to intermediate or 1 middle school to high school; now, therefore, 2 3 4 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth 5 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2008, that the Board of Education is requested to evaluate the 6 7 necessity of mandatory health education, which would include 8 medically accurate sex education in the intermediate and middle 9 schools: and 10 11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education is requested to submit a report on its findings and 12 recommendations, including information on implementation for a 13 mandatory course of study in health education in intermediate 14 and middle schools, to the Legislature no later than twenty days 15 16 prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2009; and 17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this 18 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of 19 Education and the Superintendent of Education. 20 21 22 23

OFFERED BY:

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