



SIECUS

State Profile

HAWAII

The Department of Health and community-based organizations in Hawaii received \$1,012,794 in federal funds for abstinence-only-until-marriage programs in Fiscal Year 2007.¹

Hawaii Sexuality Education Law and Policy

Hawaii's education policy states that, "in order to help students make decisions that promote healthy behaviors, the Department of Education shall instruct students that abstinence from sexual intercourse is the surest and most responsible way to prevent unintended pregnancies, sexually transmitted diseases [STDs] such as HIV/AIDS, and consequent emotional distress." The policy specifies that programs shall help students remain abstinent, help currently sexually active students become abstinent, and "provide youth with information on and skill development in the use of protective devices and methods for the purpose of preventing sexually transmitted diseases and pregnancy."

Hawaii's education policy further states that birth control devices may be discussed during human reproduction studies; however, "the distribution of condoms and other prophylactic devices to students shall be prohibited in the classroom, on the school campus, or at any school-related activities."

Hawaii's *Health Content Standards* also state that sexual health should be addressed and tells schools which content areas are to be covered, but does not give curricula guidelines or suggest curricula, and does not go into detail as to what should be discussed.

Hawaii does not require parental permission for students to participate in sexuality or HIV/AIDS education nor does it say whether parents or guardians can remove their children from such classes.

See Hawaii Board of Education Policies 2100, 2110, and 2245.

Recent Legislation

Legislation to Allow for Rapid HIV Testing

House Concurrent Resolution 293, introduced in March 2007, urges the Governor to allow rapid HIV testing in the state. The current Hawaii Administrative Rules outline strict requirements for the use of rapid HIV testing within the state, making it difficult to use in Hawaii. The resolution explains that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, and other major federal public health agencies strongly support rapid HIV testing since it increases awareness of HIV serostatus. HCR 293 was passed by the House and was sent to the Senate for debate where it was referred to the Senate Committee on Health.

Bills to Mandate Sexual Health Education in State-Funded Entities

House Bill 464 and Senate Bill 1117, introduced in January 2007, would mandate that any recipient of state funding offering sexual health education must provide medically accurate, factual information that is age-appropriate. In addition, state-funded entities must provide education on both abstinence and contraception for the prevention of pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases. SB 1117 passed in the Senate and was sent to the House of Representatives, where it became a substitute for HB 464. As of March 2007, SB 1117 resides in the House Committees on Education, Health, and the Judiciary.

The bills closely resemble House Bill 2079 and Senate Bill 2172 which were introduced in January 2006. Like the newer bills, the 2006 versions would have required “any recipient of state funding that provides information or offers programs regarding sex, family planning, pregnancy counseling, or sexually transmitted diseases” to provide medically and factually accurate information that is age-appropriate. They would have also required that recipients teach about both abstinence and contraception. These bills defined both “factual information” and “medically accurate” information. Both of these bills failed to move out of committee.

Events of Note

SIECUS is not aware of any recent events regarding sexuality education in Hawaii.

Hawaii’s Youth: Statistical Information of Note²

- In 2007, 40% of female high school students and 33% of male high school students in Hawaii reported ever having had sexual intercourse compared to 46% of female high school students and 50% of male high school students nationwide.
- In 2007, 5% of female high school students and 5% of male high school students in Hawaii reported having had sexual intercourse before age 13 compared to 4% of female high school students and 10% of male high school students nationwide.
- In 2007, 6% of female high school students and 6% of male high school students in Hawaii reported having had four or more lifetime sexual partners compared to 12% of female high school students and 18% of male high school students nationwide.
- In 2007, 28% of female high school students and 20% of male high school students in Hawaii reported being currently sexually active (defined as having had sexual intercourse in the three months prior to the survey) compared to 36% of female high school students and 34% of male high school students nationwide.
- In 2005, among those high school students who reported being currently sexually active, 44% of females and 53% of males in Hawaii reported having used condoms the last time they had sexual intercourse compared to 56% of females and 70% of males nationwide.³
- In 2005, among those high school students who reported being currently sexually active, 14% of females and 11% of males in Hawaii reported having used birth control pills the last time they had sexual intercourse compared to 21% of females and 15% of males nationwide.⁴

- In 2005, among those high school students who reported being currently sexually active, 21% of females and 27% of males in Hawaii reported having used alcohol or drugs the last time they had sexual intercourse compared to 19% of females and 28% of males nationwide.⁵
- In 2007, 87% of high school students in Hawaii reported having been taught about AIDS/HIV in school compared to 90% of high school students nationwide.

Title V Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Funding

The Hawaii Department of Health received \$162,787 in federal Title V abstinence-only-until-marriage funding in Fiscal Year 2007. The Title V abstinence-only-until-marriage grant requires states to provide three state-raised dollars or the equivalent in services for every four federal dollars received. The state match may be provided in part or in full by local groups. In Hawaii, the match is provided through both direct state revenues and in-kind services from the state's single sub-grantee. (The Department of Health could not determine the exact amount of amount of direct state funds used for the match.)

There is one Title V abstinence-only-until-marriage sub-grantee in the state, the Boys and Girls Clubs of Hawaii. The organization used the funding to hold community events on each of Hawaii's largest islands. These events included teen dances where the organization collected assessment data from participants, asking young people about their knowledge, attitudes, and beliefs related to abstinence. The individuals who participated received incentives.⁶

The events themselves focused on abstinence and used materials from *SMART Moves*, a curriculum developed by the Boys and Girls Clubs of America that targets young people ages 6–15. It includes *Smart Kids* to help kids ages 6–9 year olds develop self awareness, decision making, and interpersonal skills; *Start Smart* to help preteens identify and resist peer, social, and media pressures to use drugs and become sexually involved; *Stay Smart* to help teenagers develop social, resistance, assertiveness, problem-solving, and decision-making skills; and *Smart Parents* to augment the sessions and teach parents about adolescent drug use and sexuality. SIECUS reviewed Smart Move and identified it as an “Abstinence Program without Fear.”

Community-Based Abstinence Education (CBAE) and Adolescent Family Life Act (AFLA) Grantees

There are two CBAE grantees in Hawaii: Catholic Charities of Honolulu and Maui Youth and Family Services. There are no AFLA grantees in Hawaii.

Catholic Charities of Honolulu runs the abstinence-only-until-marriage program “Try Wait!”⁷ This program is offered to public and private school students in grades 7 through 12 and includes eight interactive lessons.⁸ Try Wait! uses *Choosing the Best PATH*, an abstinence-only-until-marriage curriculum that SIECUS reviewed.⁹ We found that it provides endless information on the negative consequences of premarital sexual activity and utilizes a variety of tactics to suggest that teens should feel guilty, embarrassed, and ashamed of sexual behavior. For example, *Choosing the Best PATH* asks students, “How does being sexually active as a teen affect how a person feels about himself or herself?” The suggested answer is, “Can feel sad about losing virginity, loss of self-respect, blames self for getting pregnant or contracting an STD.” It goes on to say, “Sexual activity also can lead to the trashing of a person's reputation, resulting in the loss of friends.”¹⁰

At the conclusion of the sessions, Try Wait! gives students the option of signing virginity pledge cards.¹¹ Research has found that under certain conditions these pledges may help some adolescents delay

sexual intercourse. When they work, pledges help this select group of adolescents delay the onset of sexual intercourse for an average of 18 months—far short of marriage. Researchers found that pledges only worked when taken by a small group of students. Pledges taken by a whole class were ineffective. More importantly, the studies also found that those young people who took a pledge were one-third less likely to use contraception when they did become sexually active than their peers who had not pledged. These teens are therefore more vulnerable to the risks of unprotected sexual activity such as unintended pregnancy and STDs, including HIV/AIDS. Further research has confirmed that although some students who take pledges delay intercourse, ultimately they are equally as likely to contract an STD as their non-pledging peers. The study also found that STD rates were higher in communities where a significant proportion (over 20 percent) of the young people had taken virginity pledges.¹²

Catholic Charities of Honolulu also provides a two-hour parent workshop.

Federal and State Funding for Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Programs in FY 2007

Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Grantee Length of Grant	Amount of Grant	Type of Grant (includes Title V, CBAE, AFLA, and other funds)
Hawaii Department of Health www.hawaii.gov/health	\$162,787 federal	Title V
Boys and Girls Club of Hawaii	\$135,400	Title V sub-grantee
Catholic Charities of Honolulu 2006–2011 www.catholiccharitieshawaii.org	\$600,000	CBAE
Maui Youth and Family Services 2005–2008 www.myfs.org	\$250,007	CBAE

Adolescent Health Contact¹³

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Family Health Services Division
741-A Sunset Ave.
Honolulu, HI 96816
Phone: (808) 733-8339

Hawaii Organizations that Support Comprehensive Sexuality Education

ACLU of Hawaii
P.O. Box 3410
Honolulu, HI 96801
Phone: (808) 522-5900
www.acluhawaii.org

Planned Parenthood of Hawaii
1350 South King St., Suite 310
Honolulu, HI 96814
Phone: (808) 589-1156
www.plannedparenthood.org/hawaii/

Hawaii Organizations that Oppose Comprehensive Sexuality Education

Hawaii Christian Coalition
1336 Dillingham Blvd.
Honolulu, HI 96817
Phone: (808) 842-0707
www.hi-christian.com

Hawaii Family Forum
6301 Pali Hwy.
Kaneohe, HI 96744
Phone: (808) 203-6704
www.hawaiifamilyforum.org

Hawaii Right to Life
81 S. Hotel St., Room 200-B
Honolulu, HI 96813
Phone: (808) 585-8207
www.hrtl.org

Newspapers in Hawaii¹⁴

Honolulu Advertiser
Newsroom
P.O. Box 3110
Honolulu, HI 96802
Phone: (808) 525-8090
www.honoluluadvertiser.com

The Maui News
Newsroom
100 Mahalani St.
Wailuku, HI 96793
Phone: (808) 244-3981
www.mauinews.com

¹ This refers to the fiscal year for the Federal Government which begins on October 1 and ends on September 30. The fiscal year is designated by the calendar year in which it ends; for example, Fiscal Year 2007 begins on October 1, 2006 and ends on September 30, 2007.

² Unless otherwise cited, all statistical information comes from: Danice K. Eaton, et. al., "Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance—United States, 2007," *Surveillance Summaries, Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* 57.SS-4 (6 June 2008), accessed 4 June 2008, <<http://www.cdc.gov/HealthyYouth/yrbs/index.htm>>.

³ Danice K. Eaton, et. al., "Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance—United States, 2005," *Surveillance Summaries, Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, vol. 55, no. SS-5 (9 June 2006): 1-108, accessed 26 January 2007, <<http://www.cdc.gov/HealthyYouth/yrbs/index.htm>>.

⁴ *Ibid.*

⁵ *Ibid.*

⁶ Personal conversation between Noella Kong and Catherine Morrison, 23 March 2008.

⁷ "Programs: Unplanned Pregnancy," Catholic Charities Hawai'i, (1996-2008), accessed 13 March 2008, <http://www.catholiccharitieshawaii.org/site/386/unplanned_pregnancy.aspx>.

⁸ *Ibid.*, Treena Shaprio, "Abstinence program tells teens 'Try Wait!'" *The Honolulu Advisor*, 9 June 2004, accessed 13 March 2008, <<http://the.honoluluadvertiser.com/article/2004/Jun/09/ln/ln01a.html>>.

⁹ *Ibid.*

¹⁰ Bruce Cook, *Choosing the Best PATH* (Marietta, GA: Choosing the Best Inc., 2000). For more information, see SIECUS' review of *Choosing the Best PATH* at <http://www.communityactionkit.org/curricula_reviews.html>.

¹¹ Shapiro, “Abstinence program tells teens “Try Wait!””

¹² Peter Bearman and Hannah Brückner “Promising the Future: Virginity Pledges and the Transition to First Intercourse.” *American Journal of Sociology* 106.4 (2001): 859-912.; Peter Bearman and Hannah Brückner, “After the promise: The STD consequences of adolescent virginity pledges,” *Journal of Adolescent Health* 36.4 (2005): 271-278.

¹³ SIECUS has identified this person as a state-based contact for information on adolescent health and if applicable, abstinence-only-until-marriage programs.

¹⁴ This section is a list of major newspapers in your state with contact information for their newsrooms. This list is by no means inclusive and does not contain the local level newspapers which are integral to getting your message out to your community. SIECUS strongly urges you to follow stories about the issues that concern you on the national, state, and local level by using an internet news alert service such as [Google alerts](#), becoming an avid reader of your local papers, and establishing relationships with reporters who cover your issues. For more information on how to achieve your media goals visit the SIECUS [Community Action Kit](#).