



HAWAII

Hawaii received \$901,300 in federal funding for abstinence-only-until-marriage programs in Fiscal Year 2004.¹

Hawaii Sexuality Education Law

Hawaii Education Policy states that “in order to help students make decisions that promote healthy behaviors, the Department of Education shall instruct students that abstention 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 then enumerates 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 Education Policy requires that students complete a half credit in health education for graduation in elementary, middle, and high school. This does not have to include sexuality education.

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 and 2110.

Recent Legislation

Medical Accuracy Legislation Introduced

House Bill 483 and Senate Bill 286, introduced in January 2005, would require any recipient of state funding that provides sex education, family planning information, pregnancy counseling, or information about STDs to use medically accurate, factually based information. According to H.B. 483 and S.B. 286, this must include information about abstinence and contraception. The bills define medical accuracy as “verified or supported by research conducted in compliance with scientific methods and published in peer-reviewed journals, where appropriate, and recognized as accurate and objective by professional organizations and agencies with expertise in the relevant fields, such as the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists.”

Bills Would Expand School Health Services

Introduced in January 2005, House Bill 1003 and Senate Bill 1517 would provide for the planning and start-up of comprehensive school health services with an emphasis on school-based health centers. As part of this, schools may include “health education, including medically

accurate, factually based sex education.” These projects could not “promote, provide, or provide referrals to abortions or abortion-related services.” Both bills also include money for evaluation of the effectiveness of the school-based health programs.

Additionally, four separate resolutions, House Resolutions 23 and 26 as well as Senate Resolutions 6 and 9 express support for the aforementioned bill.

Events of Note

Sex Education Material Removed from Classroom

December 2002; Kohala, HI

A brochure was removed from an eighth-grade sexuality education class in Kohala, Hawaii, after the content was criticized by parents. *Discovering Your Sexuality*, a four-page supplement to the Weekly Reader series, *Current Health*, describes “how children mature sexually, talks about crushes, and summarizes research on sexual orientation.”²

The parents objected to the material because they found it “lewd,” “licentious,” and “pornographic.”³ They also strongly objected to those organizations cited as resources, including SIECUS and Planned Parenthood. One parent flew to Honolulu to protest in person to the state board of education. At least one board member agreed with the parents’ complaints and said, “I fully understand why the parents ... are outraged. This material teaches children that homosexual behavior is normal and natural and encourages them to consider that they might be homosexual.”⁴ She went on to say she would propose a school policy to require that parents be notified before certain sexuality materials are used in the classroom.

The state school superintendent said the department will review the issue but said that such a policy already exists. Under the existing policy, parents are supposed to be notified about potentially objectionable materials. The teacher admitted that she had used the materials without consulting parents but said the material was only to be used so the students could become familiar with the vocabulary. “I jumped the gun,” she said.⁵ At the same time, the teacher felt that the parents were “overzealous” and “overreacting” and that they showed “signs of being homophobic.”⁶

Hawaii Students Want Better Sexuality Education

December 2002

During the annual meeting of the Hawaii Secondary Student Conference, students from every public school district and private school in the state came up with a list of resolutions for the new year. One resolution involved advocating for better sexuality education in the schools, including access to condoms in school health rooms, and peer education programs to help stop teen pregnancy.⁷

Hawaii’s Youth: Statistical Information of Note⁸

- In 2001, 36% of female high school students and 31% of male high school students in Hawaii reported ever having had sexual intercourse compared to 43% of female high school students and 49% of male high school students nationwide.
- In 2001, 4% of female high school students and 6% of male high school students in Hawaii reported having had sexual intercourse before age 13 compared to 4% of female high school students and 9% of male high school students nationwide.

- In 2001, 9% of female high school students and 8% of male high school students in Hawaii reported having had four or more lifetime sexual partners compared to 11% of female high school students and 17% of male high school students nationwide.
- In 2001, 25% of female high school students and 21% 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 33% of females and 33% of males nationwide.
- In 2001, among those high school students in Hawaii who reported being currently sexually active, 22% reported having used alcohol or drugs the last time they had sexual intercourse compared to 26% nationwide.
- In 2001, among those high school students in Hawaii who reported being currently sexually active, 46% reported having used condoms the last time they had sexual intercourse compared to 58% nationwide.
- In 2001, among those high school students in Hawaii who reported being currently sexually active, 17% reported having used birth control pills the last time they had sexual intercourse compared to 18% nationwide.
- In 2001, 4% of female high school students and 3% of male high school students in Hawaii reported ever having been pregnant or gotten someone pregnant compared to 5% of female high school students and 4% of male high school students nationwide.
- In 2001, 87% of high school students in Hawaii reported having been taught about HIV/AIDS in school compared to 89% of high school students nationwide.
- In 2000, Hawaii's abortion rate was 34 per 1,000 women ages 15-19 compared to a teen abortion rate of 24 per 1,000 nationwide.⁹
- In 2002, Hawaii's birth rate was 38 per 1,000 women ages 15-19 compared to a teen birth rate of 43 per 1,000 nationwide.¹⁰

Title V Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Funding

Hawaii received \$166,268 in federal Title V funds in Fiscal Year 2004. 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. Hawaii matches the federal money with \$155,470 in state funding. The Hawaii Department of Health oversees this funding.

The Hawaii Department of Health gives one grant to the Boys and Girls Club of Honolulu. The Boys and Girls Club of Honolulu implements the *Smart Moves* program in four sites. Each site has a community advisory board that is linked with a Lavlima, community advisory boards work on teen pregnancy and adolescent wellness.

The grant has four goals:

1. To promote health through appropriate education and life skills trainings;
2. To improve or enhance personal growth through self-esteem building and pro-social activities;
3. To increase peer (13 to 17 year olds) and adult involvement in program planning and implementation; and
4. To increase parent and community awareness and support of the needs of our youth.

The program emphasizes two points of the eight-point federal definition of abstinence-only-until-marriage programs:

- Teaches young people how to reject sexual advances and how alcohol and drug use increase vulnerability to sexual advances, and
- Teaches the importance of attaining self-sufficiency before engaging in sexual activity.

The Boys and Girls Club of Honolulu targets young people ages 9 to 12. Parents and adults also participate in activities. Young people ages 13 to 17 are involved in the program as peer mentors. The program uses the *Smart Moves* curriculum to encourage youth to abstain from risk-taking behavior. Classes are held in after-school or community-based settings as Hawaii’s sexuality education law requires in-school programs to have an abstinence-based, not an abstinence-only-until-marriage focus.

The *Smart Moves* program will be evaluated for both process and outcome. The evaluation will examine sexual intercourse rates, attitudes about abstinence, STD rates, teen pregnancy rates, and birth rates among 15 to 17 year olds. The University of Hawaii receives \$18,000 per year to continue its work on the evaluation.

Special Projects of Regional and National Significance–Community Based Abstinence Education (SPRANS–CBAE)¹¹ and Adolescent Family Life Act (AFLA) Grantees

There is one SPRANS–CBAE grantee in Hawaii: Catholic Charities of Honolulu. There are no AFLA grantees in Hawaii.

Federal and State Funding for Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Programs in FY 2004

Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Grantee	Amount of Grant	Type of Grant (includes SPRANS–CBAE, Title V, and AFLA)
<p data-bbox="232 1514 464 1549">Length of Grant</p> <p data-bbox="232 1549 526 1623">Hawaii Department of Health</p> <p data-bbox="232 1661 532 1696">www.state.hi.us/health</p>	<p data-bbox="626 1549 850 1623">\$166,268 federal \$155,470 state</p>	<p data-bbox="1011 1549 1105 1585">Title V</p>

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Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Grantee	Amount of Grant	Type of Grant (includes SPRANS-CBAE, Title V, and AFLA)
Length of Grant Boys and Girls Club of Honolulu www.bgch.com/programs-health.htm	\$136,003	Title V sub-grantee
Catholic Charities of Honolulu 2003-2006 www.catholiccharitieshawaii.org	\$735,032	SPRANS-CBAE (Implementation Grant)

Title V Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Coordinator

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Hawaii Organizations that Support Comprehensive Sexuality Education

Hawaii American Civil Liberties Union
 PO Box 3410
 Honolulu, HI 96801
 Phone: (808) 522-5900
www.acluhawaii.org

Planned Parenthood of Hawaii
 1350 S. King St., Suite 310
 Honolulu, HI 96814
 Phone: (808) 589-1149
www.plannedparenthoodhawaii.org

Hawaii Organizations that Oppose Comprehensive Sexuality Education

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

Hawaii Family Forum
 6301 Pali Highway
 Kaneohe, HI 96744
 Phone: (808) 230-2100
www.hawaiifamilyforum.org

Hawaii Right to Life Inc.
1019 University Ave. #7B
Honolulu, HI 96826
Phone: (808) 943-1595
www.hrtl.org

Newspapers in Hawaii

The Garden Island
Assignment Editor
3137 Kuhio Hwy.
Lihue, HI 96766
Phone: (808) 245-3681

Honolulu Advertiser
Robbie Dingeman
Health & Medicine Editor
PO Box 3110
Honolulu, HI 96802
Phone: (808) 535-2429

The Maui News
Illima Loomis
Community News Reporter
100 Mahalani St.
Wailuku, HI 96793
Phone: (808) 244-3981

West Hawaii Today
Colleen Marshall
Medical/Health Reporter
75-5580 Kuakini Hwy.
Kailua-Kona, HI 96740
Phone: (808) 329-9311

Hawaii Hochi
Assignment Editor
917 Kokea St.
Honolulu, HI 96817
Phone: (808) 845-2255

Honolulu Star-Bulletin
Helen Altonn
Health & Medicine Reporter
500 Ala Moana Blvd.
Honolulu, HI 96813
Phone: (808) 529-4761

Tribune-Herald
Assignment Editor
355 Kinoole St.
Hilo, HI 96720
Phone: (808) 935-6621

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 2004 begins on October 1, 2003 and ends on September 30, 2004.

² Susan Essoyan, "Sex Education Brochure at Middle School Protested," *Honolulu (HI) Star-Bulletin News*, 22 November 2002.

³ H. Bishop, "Sex Ed Furor Erupts at Middle School," *Hawaii Tribune Herald*, 1 December 2002.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Jennifer Hiller, "On Campus," *The Honolulu (HI) Advertiser*, 2 January 2003; Jennifer Hiller, "Student Leaders Tackle School Issues," *The Honolulu (HI) Advertiser*, 6 December 2002.

⁸ Unless otherwise cited, all statistical information comes from: Jo Anne Grunbaum, et. al., “Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance—United States, 2001,” *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, 51.SS-4, (28 June 2002), 1-64, accessed 28 January 2005, <<http://www.cdc.gov/nccdphp/dash/yrbs/>>. Hawaii did not participate in the 2003 YRBS.

⁹ *U.S. Teenage Pregnancy Statistics: Overall Trends, Trends by Race and Ethnicity and State-by-State Information* (New York: Alan Guttmacher Institute, February, 2004), accessed 28 January 2005 <www.guttmacher.org>.

¹⁰ *National Vital Statistics Reports 52.10* (Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics, 2003), 48, accessed 4 February 2005, <<http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/births.htm#stat%20tables>>.

¹¹ In FY 2004 SPRANS–CBAE was administered within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) by the Maternal and Child Health Bureau. In FY 2005 this funding stream was moved to HHS’ Administration for Children and Families and is now referred to simply as Community Based Abstinence Education (CBAE).