

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS

HONOLULU

July 15, 2009

STATEMENT OF OBJECTIONS TO SENATE BILL NO. 777

Honorable Members
Twenty-Fifth Legislature
State of Hawaii

Pursuant to Section 16 of Article III of the Constitution of the State of Hawaii, I am returning herewith, without my approval, Senate Bill No. 777, entitled "A Bill for an Act Relating to Comprehensive Sexuality Health Education."

This bill requires sexual health education programs that receive State funding to provide medically accurate and factual information that is age appropriate that includes education on abstinence, contraception, and prevention of unintended pregnancies and sexually transmitted diseases when engaging in intercourse.

This bill is objectionable because it will prohibit the use of State funds for a legitimate, proven form of sex education that encourages children to abstain from sexual intercourse.

Programs such as "Try Wait," offered by Catholic Charities, help teenagers to understand the implications of sexual activity and the options of refraining from such activity. According to data collected by the U. S. Department of Health and Human Services, Hawaii ranks 12th in the nation in teen pregnancies and 10th in the nation in sexually transmitted diseases. Students and their parents deserve to have options that provide instruction in and encourage abstinence.

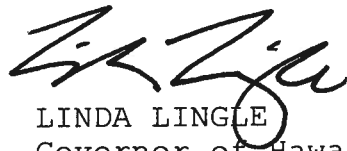
The State Department of Health and the State Department of Education already provide medically accurate and factual content in the sexual health education programs they offer. The Board of Education's Policy No. 2110 requires schools'

STATEMENT OF OBJECTIONS
SENATE BILL NO. 777
Page 2

abstinence-based education programs to include information on protective devices and methods for preventing pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases. Should the Department of Education elect to teach courses that focus on abstinence only that do not include instruction on preventing pregnancies and sexually transmitted disease, this bill would prohibit these education programs from receiving State funds.

For the foregoing reasons, I am returning Senate Bill No. 777 without my approval.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Linda Lingle", is written over the printed name.

LINDA LINGLE
Governor of Hawaii