
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The island of Hawaii encompasses an area of
2 4,028 square miles and has a population of 167,000 residents.
3 The island's population is spread over an area twice the size of
4 all the other islands combined. This poses a geographic
5 challenge in providing programs and services to island
6 residents.

7 Rural communities lack the necessary infrastructure to
8 support and implement beneficial programs for our community.
9 The youth face challenges in remaining drug-free, engaged, and
10 involved in positive activities because of the lack of
11 transportation, facilities, and educational alternatives during
12 the afternoon and evening hours. Families have to travel
13 significant distances to areas of employment that are clustered
14 in the South Kohala, Kona, and Hilo areas. This results in
15 children being largely unsupervised after school. We have
16 recently seen the impact that drugs and substance abuse,
17 primarily crystal methamphetamine, have had on our children, our



1 families, and our communities. We need to remain committed to
2 ensuring the safety and health of our children.

3 Our schools have the necessary infrastructure to provide
4 support to our youth, our families, and our communities. There
5 are classrooms, restrooms, parking, computer labs, gyms, and
6 parks. In some rural communities, the only facilities for
7 meetings and activities are the schools. Unfortunately, many of
8 our schools remain closed during the afternoon and evening
9 hours. Our schools are the center, the hub, the heart of our
10 communities. Through partnerships between the department of
11 education, the county, and local businesses and community
12 organizations, we can provide our students the opportunity to
13 remain at school to participate in recreational and educational
14 programs. Increasing the positive alternatives available to our
15 youth will provide multiple benefits to our community.

16 Establishing the Hawaii Safe Haven demonstration program
17 will allow our communities to become engaged in the education
18 and support of our students. Our communities, with support from
19 the legislature, will provide the programs and services during
20 after school hours. Our teachers and administrators are already
21 fulfilling the challenges of providing transportation, meals,
22 and an educational curriculum to our students during the school



1 day. This demonstration program will allow our schools the
2 opportunity to remain open after school with services to be
3 provided by local businesses, organizations, and community
4 volunteers. It will also allow for the collaboration,
5 cooperation, and collective commitment of our rural communities
6 towards nurturing, guiding, and supporting our youth and our
7 families. The Safe Haven demonstration program is planned for
8 implementation in the county of Hawaii as a model, to be
9 expanded to other islands following the successful demonstration
10 of this program. One school will be selected by each department
11 of education area complex superintendent as a demonstration
12 site. A total of three schools will be part of this program
13 during the first year of operation.

14 We continue to witness unacceptable rates of adolescent
15 substance abuse, juvenile delinquency, teenage pregnancies, and
16 other negative socio-economic statistics. We can address these
17 issues if we all make a commitment to doing everything we
18 possibly can to prevent these problems from impacting our
19 community in the first place. The Department of Justice Office
20 of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention has clearly
21 stated that community programs that are most effective in
22 addressing negative behaviors amongst our youth are programs



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1 that reduce the risk factors and increase the protective factors
 2 in our community. The Safe Haven demonstration program will
 3 accomplish both of those goals.

4 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds for the
 5 implementation of the Safe Haven demonstration program in the
 6 county of Hawaii.

7 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
 8 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
 9 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2008-2009 for the
 10 implementation of the Safe Haven model demonstration program in
 11 the county of Hawaii.

12 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
 13 education for the purposes of this Act.

14 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2008.
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INTRODUCED BY:

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Report Title:

Safe Haven; After School Programs.

Description:

Appropriates funds for the Safe Haven after school program in the county of Hawaii.

