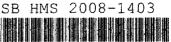
### A BILL FOR AN ACT

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.
- The island's population is spread over an area twice the size of 3
- 4 all the other islands combined. This poses a geographic
- 5 challenge in providing programs and services to island
- residents. 6
- 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
- transportation, facilities, and educational alternatives during 11
- 12 the afternoon and evening hours. Families have to travel
- 13 significant distances to areas of employment that are clustered
- in the South Kohala, Kona, and Hilo areas. This results in 14
- 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



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- 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.

15

INTRODUCED BY:



#### Report Title:

Safe Haven; After School Programs.

### Description:

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