

L A T E

Date of Hearing: January 28, 2008

Committee: Senate Education/Human Services and
Public Housing

Department: After School Programs

Person Testifying: Patricia Hamamoto, Superintendent

Title: S.B. 2875, Relating To After School Programs

Purpose: Appropriates Funds For the Safe Haven After School Program in the county of Hawaii.

Department's Position: The Department of Education (Department) supports S.B. 2875 to appropriate funds for the Safe Haven Program in the county of Hawaii. The Department understands that our youth face challenges in remaining drug-free, engaged, and involved in positive activities because of the lack of transportation, facilities, and educational alternatives during the afternoon and evening hours. This measure, through partnerships among the Department of Education, the county, and the local businesses, and community organizations, provides funding for a pilot program for the students in selected schools where students will participate in after school recreational and educational programs. However, funding priority must be given to the Board of Education's supplemental operating budget requests before this measure.



Island of Hawaii YMCA

Waiakea Settlement Branch

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NOTICE OF HEARING: MONDAY, JANUARY 28, 2008 3:45 PM

Committee on Education

Senator Norman Sakamoto, Chair

Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Vice Chair

Committee on Human Services and Public Housing

Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair

Senator Les Ihara, Jr. Vice Chair

RE: SB #2875 RELATING TO AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Aloha,

My name is Robert Stivers and I am the Vice President of Operations and Branch Executive Director of the Island of Hawaii YMCA. I want to express my support of SB #2875 appropriating funds for the Safe Haven after school program in the county of Hawaii.

While schools are the center of a community, most schools close its doors after 5:30 pm. The collaborative effort for the Safe Haven demonstration program is ideal and needed and here on the Island of Hawaii, the willingness of businesses, government and not-for-profit organizations to work together for the betterment of children and youth are high.

Thank you for your time.