

JAN 25 2012

A BILL FOR AN ACT

MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR YOUTH SERVICES.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that many studies have
2 shown that the hours between 3:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. are the
3 peak hours for youth to commit or be victims of crime, and to
4 smoke, drink, or do drugs. After school programs can keep youth
5 out of trouble, improve school attitudes and behavior,
6 strengthen social networks, teach new skills, and improve self-
7 confidence by offering safety, structure, supportive adults, and
8 exposure to new and different experiences. Conversely, youth
9 who are not supervised by an adult after hours are at risk of
10 academic and behavior-related problems.

11 The legislature also finds that according to the Hawaii
12 student alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs report, lack of after
13 school programs affects middle school students the most, and may
14 be a contributing factor in risk factors such as peer substance
15 use and antisocial behavior, and the use of cigarettes, alcohol,
16 and marijuana.

17 The legislature further finds that in the past several
18 years, the new immigrant population from Micronesia, Chuuk,



1 Marshall Islands, and other Compact of Free Association nations
2 has increased dramatically in our State. Many of the children
3 and youth from these populations face acculturation issues,
4 problems with poor performance in school, bullying, and
5 prejudice. For example, in the Kalihi community, along with the
6 immigrants from various Compact of Free Association nations, the
7 existing youth are at a high risk for participating in risky
8 behaviors, such as participation in gangs, substance use and
9 abuse, and criminal behavior. Furthermore, according to the
10 Star Advertiser, currently fifty-three per cent of students
11 statewide are eligible for free or reduced lunch, which is the
12 highest rate it has been in two decades. Since this is a key
13 indicator of poverty, this statistic points to the growing low-
14 income, at risk population.

15 The legislature also finds that the demand for after school
16 programs among the at risk population exceeds the ability to
17 provide services to this population, and access to quality out-
18 of-school-time activities is especially limited in low-income
19 communities.

20 The legislature finds that according to the Star
21 Advertiser, the department of human services ended its temporary
22 assistance for needy families program contracts with forty-one



1 children, youth, and family programs. Coupled with reduced
2 funding levels from the state and federal governments, these
3 reductions have resulted in decreases for youth programs in the
4 Kalihi community. Decreased funding has resulted in reductions
5 in:

- 6 (1) The number of staff employed;
- 7 (2) The number of hours worked by remaining staff,
8 including initiating furlough days in some instances;
- 9 (3) The number of hours centers are open and services are
10 available to youth and families; and
- 11 (4) The number of activities and services available for
12 youth and their families.

13 The legislature further finds that youth require services
14 and activities to prevent them from exhibiting risky behaviors
15 and participating in illegal activities, and to increase their
16 chances of school success, high school graduation, and a
17 successful transition to adulthood.

18 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds to ensure
19 youth in Kalihi receive services they need and to decrease the
20 gap in services that resulted from decreased temporary
21 assistance for needy families program funding and state and
22 federal funding dedicated to youth services.



S.B. NO. 2940

Report Title:

Keiki Caucus; Youth Services; Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates funds as a grant to the Kalihi YMCA, Parents and Children Together, and Susannah Wesley Community Center to support youth services.

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.

