
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO SOCIAL SERVICES.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Uniting Peer
2 Learning Integrating New Knowledge is an after-school program
3 for middle-school students in Hawaii that keeps youth actively
4 involved in their school and community, allows youth to exercise
5 daily, explores academic and career opportunities for youth,
6 teaches youth how to prepare healthy meals, keeps youth engaged
7 in positive activities, and reduces opportunities to engage in
8 negative lifestyle choices. The focus of the program, as
9 mandated by the department of human services, is to provide a
10 safe and nurturing environment for middle school youths during
11 the immediate hours after school, from 2:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.,
12 when students may be tempted to engage in "risky" behaviors.
13 Uniting Peer Learning Integrating New Knowledge accepts all
14 students who want to participate and whose parents have
15 registered them for the program at their individual schools.
16 The program encourages students to make sound decisions in
17 regards to sexual activity and drugs, learn how to be respectful
18 of others, nurture relationships, develop competencies that can



1 be carried into later experiences, and make contributions to the
2 community. In five years, no middle school pregnancies have
3 occurred among students participating in the program. The
4 program also provides academic and remediation support to
5 students in grades six, seven, and eight, providing optional
6 high-interest activities that focus on developing positive
7 character traits in what schools refer to as the 5C's:
8 character, confidence, competence, connection, and contribution.
9 Fourteen of the schools reported that students in the program
10 passed all their classes in the ninety to one hundred per cent
11 range.

12 The legislature further finds that the program began in
13 2005 with one pilot school, and currently, there are twenty-
14 seven middle schools participating in the program. The program
15 is free to middle school students in participating schools and
16 provides homework assistance and character education activities.
17 Approximately four thousand five hundred students per year
18 register to participate in Uniting Peer Learning Integrating New
19 Knowledge.

20 The legislature further finds that current funding for
21 Uniting Peer Learning Integrating New Knowledge is \$2,400,000
22 with \$2,265,000 allocated directly to the schools based on size



1 of program, location, and transportation needs. While the
2 department of human services has authorized fifteen per cent of
3 the original amount of funding for administrative costs, in the
4 last three years the administrators have decreased the
5 administrative portion of funding to less than ten per cent, and
6 down to five per cent this year. Any leftover funds are
7 designated to the schools and program improvements.

8 To date, Uniting Peer Learning Integrating New Knowledge is
9 administered by one department of education administrator and
10 one part-time monitoring clerk, who work directly with the
11 schools. They are currently responsible for the evaluation of
12 grant proposals, collection of semester and summer data reports,
13 handling of all inquiries from the schools, planning of program
14 improvement, coordination of program activities, disbursement of
15 funds, and communication with other department of education
16 mandates related to the program. If Uniting Peer Learning
17 Integrating New Knowledge is expanded to include more schools,
18 it will require a larger staff.

19 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
20 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
21 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2013-2014 and
22 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal



1 year 2014-2015 for non-school hour positive youth programs, a
2 Uniting Peer Learning Integrating New Knowledge administrator in
3 the department of education, and other Uniting Peer Learning
4 Integrating New Knowledge staffing needs.

5 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
6 of human services for the purposes of this Act; provided that
7 the department of human services shall fund the Uniting Peer
8 Learning Integrating New Knowledge Program, which includes one
9 department of education administrator and other Uniting Peer
10 Learning Integrating New Knowledge staffing needs, pursuant to a
11 memorandum of agreement.

12 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



Report Title:

Non-School Hour Positive Youth Programs; UPLINK; Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates funds to be expended by the department of human services for after school hour positive youth programs, an UPLINK administrator in the department of education, and other UPLINK staffing needs. Effective July 1, 2050. (SB390 HD1)

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