
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 UPLINK is an after-
2 school program for middle-school students in Hawaii that keeps
3 youth actively involved in their school and community, allows
4 youth to exercise daily, explores academic and career
5 opportunities for youth, teaches youth how to prepare healthy
6 meals, keeps youth engaged in positive activities, and reduces
7 opportunities to engage in negative lifestyle choices. The
8 focus of the program, as mandated by the department of human
9 services, is to provide a safe and nurturing environment to
10 those immediate hours after school, from 2:30 to 5:30 p.m., when
11 students may be tempted to engage in "risky" behaviors. UPLINK
12 accepts all students who want to participate and whose parents
13 have registered them for the program at their individual
14 schools. The program encourages students to make sound
15 decisions in regards to sexual activity and drugs, learn how to
16 be respectful of others, nurture relationships, develop
17 competencies that can be carried into later experiences, and
18 make contributions to the community. In five years, no middle



1 school pregnancies have occurred among students participating in
2 the program. The program also provides academic and remediation
3 support to students in grades six, seven, and eight, providing
4 optional high interest activities that focus on developing
5 positive character traits in what schools refer to as the 5C's:
6 character, confidence, competence, connection, and contribution.
7 Fourteen of the schools reported that students in the program
8 passed all their classes in the ninety to one hundred per cent
9 range.

10 The legislature further finds that there are currently
11 twenty-seven middle schools participating in the program, which
12 began in 2005 with one pilot school. The program, which is free
13 to middle school students in participating schools, provides
14 homework assistance and character education activities.
15 Approximately 4,500 students per year register to participate in
16 UPLINK.

17 The legislature further finds that current funding for
18 UPLINK is \$2,400,000 with \$2,265,000 allocated directly to the
19 schools based on size of program, location, and transportation
20 needs. While the department of human services has authorized
21 fifteen per cent of the original amount of funding for
22 administrative costs, in the last three years the administrators



1 have decreased the administrative portion of funding to less
2 than ten per cent and to five per cent this year. Any leftover
3 funds are designated to the schools and program improvements.

4 To date, UPLINK has been administered by one department of
5 education administrator and one part-time monitoring clerk, who
6 work directly with the schools. They are currently responsible
7 for the evaluation of grant proposals, collection of semester
8 and summer data reports, handling of all inquiries from the
9 schools, planning of program improvement, coordination of
10 program activities, disbursement of funds, and communication
11 with other department of education mandates related to the
12 program. If UPLINK is expanded to include more schools, it
13 would require a larger staff.

14 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
15 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
16 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2013-2014 and
17 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
18 year 2014-2015 for non-school hour positive youth programs, an
19 UPLINK administrator in the department of education, and other
20 UPLINK staffing needs.

21 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
22 of human services for the purposes of this Act; provided that



1 the department of human services shall transfer funds to the
2 department of education for the UPLINK administrator and other
3 UPLINK staffing needs pursuant to a memorandum of agreement.

4 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2013.

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Report Title:

Non-school Hour Positive Youth Programs; UPLINK; Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates funds to be expended by the department of human services for non-school hour positive youth programs, an UPLINK administrator in the department of education, and other UPLINK staffing needs. (SD1)

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