



OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
STATE OF HAWAII
STATE CAPITOL
P.O. BOX 3226
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96801

TESTIMONY OF
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR SHAN S. TSUTSUI
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES
ON HOUSE BILL NO. 1756
Relating to Youth After-School Programs

January 28, 2014

Chair Carroll, Vice Chair Kobayashi, and members of the House Committee on Human Services, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **strong support** of House Bill No. 1756. This measure seeks to establish a program and funding to provide for after-school programs in public middle and intermediate schools throughout the state of Hawaii. R.E.A.C.H., which stands for resources for enrichment, athletics, culture and health is an initiative aimed at keeping Hawaii's youth engaged and excited about learning during the afterschool hours so they can stay on the right path towards high school graduation and be better prepared for future success. Programs offered will be from three general categories: academic enrichment, arts and culture, and athletics.

House Bill No. 1756 establishes new sections under Chapter 352D of the Hawaii Revised Statutes to establish the R.E.A.C.H. program in the Office of Youth Services in order to provide a standardized framework for afterschool programs offered in public middle/intermediate schools. The program would be administered by the Office of Youth Services through an appropriation of \$3.1 million, including one full-time equivalent position. Provisions in the bill allow for participation fees to be established which would serve to enhance the sustainability of the program. The bill also establishes a revolving fund to receive the fees and other moneys to supplement the cost of administering and operating the program. Furthermore, the \$3.1 million appropriation in this measure has already been included in the Executive Supplemental Budget and, therefore, has been accounted for by the Administration in its financial plan.

The Office of Youth Services is dedicated to creating opportunities for the youth to develop competencies that foster resiliency and enable them to achieve a successful transition to young adulthood. The objectives of the R.E.A.C.H. initiative are wholly aligned with the objectives of the Office of Youth Services. Over the past several months, our office has been diligently collaborating with the Department of Education (DOE), the Office of Youth Services, and a working group of middle school principals and DOE administrators to develop both the pilot project and the long-term structure for R.E.A.C.H. In addition to the working group, an Advisory Board comprised of well-

known community leaders committed to improving outcomes for Hawaii's youth was also established to provide insight, guidance, and support for this important initiative.

Thanks to the support from the legislature this past session, funds were appropriated and expended on a pilot project that involves five middle/intermediate schools that were awarded between \$26,000 to \$45,000 per school for a total of nearly \$200,000. The five schools are: Hana High and Elementary, Kawananakoa Middle, Mililani Middle, Molokai Middle, and Waiakea Intermediate. Implementation of this pilot project commences this month and we are very encouraged by the enthusiasm and support exhibited by the students, parents, teachers, and community at a rally held at Mililani Middle School earlier this month.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the legislature for their support with the pilot project and hope that we can continue to build upon what we started in 2013. The middle years are a critical time in a child's life where disengagement can start to take hold. The stakes of disengagement are high. Once students disconnect, recruitment and retention programs require stronger, more persistent outreach and more long-term participation. Juvenile crime, drug rehabilitation, counseling and other forms of intervention result in higher costs to taxpayers. The bottom line is that after-school programs keep kids on the path that leads to high school, college, career, and ultimately a better life. HB 1756 addresses this critical need for Hawaii's middle school students.

We ***strongly support*** HB 1756 and respectfully urge the passage of this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

Date: 01/28/2014

Committee: House Human Services

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: HB 1756 RELATING TO YOUTH.

Purpose of Bill: Establishes the resources for enrichment, athletics, culture, and health (R.E.A.C.H.) program in the office of youth services to provide a standardized framework and funding for after-school programs in public middle and intermediate schools. Establishes a revolving fund to receive fees and other moneys to supplement the costs of administering and operating the program. Appropriates funds for establishing the R.E.A.C.H. program to provide funding for after-school programs in middle and intermediate public schools. Establishes one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) position to support the program and appropriates funds for that position.

Department's Position:

The Department ***strongly supports*** HB 1756 and respectfully urge the passage of this bill.

The middle years are a critical time in a child's life where disengagement can start to take hold. The hours between 3:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. are considered to be the riskiest time for middle-school-age children as they are often left alone. Juvenile crime, drug rehabilitation, counseling and other forms of intervention result in higher costs to taxpayers. The bottom line is that after-school programs keep kids on the path that leads to high school, college, career, and ultimately a better life. HB 1756 addresses this critical need for such programs.



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
OFFICE OF YOUTH SERVICES
707 Richards Street, Suite 525
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

January 24, 2014

TO: The Honorable Mele Carroll, Chair
House Committee on Human Services

FROM: David Hipp
Executive Director

SUBJECT: H.B. 1756 – RELATING TO YOUTH

Hearing: Tuesday, January 28, 2014; 9:30 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 329

PURPOSE: The purpose of H.B. 1756, Relating to Youth, is to establish the resources for enrichment, athletics, culture and health (R.E.A.C.H.) program in the Office of Youth Services (OYS) to provide a standardized framework and funding for after-schools programs in public middle and intermediate schools. The bill also:

- establishes a revolving fund to receive fees and other moneys to supplement the costs of administering and operating the program
- appropriates funds for establishing the program
- establishes and funds a position to support the program

OFFICE'S POSITION: OYS supports H.B. 1756, Relating to Youth. There are several common denominators in the lives of our at-risk youth, including but not limited to: a lack of connectedness, a sense of not belonging, and failure in school. These factors all lead to poor decision making – which is evidenced by the fact that middle school aged children represent nearly ½ of all first time juvenile arrests in our state.

Providing quality after school programming for middle schoolers through the R.E.A.C.H. program will address those very issues – relationships, connections and school engagement will positively impact school attendance and success, and is a critical prevention tool.

The Honorable Mele Carroll
January 24, 2014
Page 2

This funding is targeting the 24 middle and intermediate schools that do not receive funding or programming through the federal funds supporting the state's UPLINK program. The funding amount is based on the costs being expended in the UPLINK schools and includes a position in OYS to work with DOE and provide oversight, support and compliance with the programming goals statewide.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

Hana High and Elementary School

4111 Hana Hwy
Hana, Hawaii 96713

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Human Services
January 28, 2014
State Capitol, Room 329

By: Richard Young
Vice Principal, Hana High and Elementary

HB 1756 – RELATING TO YOUTH

Good morning Carroll, Vice Chair Kobayashi, and members of the committee. My name is Richard Young and I am the Vice Principal at Hana High and Elementary School. I strongly support this measure. House Bill 1756 seeks to establish the R.E.A.C.H program in the Office of Youth Services to provide a standardized framework for after-school programs in public middle and intermediate schools throughout the state.

A pilot project for R.E.A.C.H. was initiated during the fourth quarter last year thanks to the support from the legislature and the Lieutenant Governor's Office. My school was one of the schools selected to participate in the pilot project. We strongly support HB 1756 because the R.E.A.C.H. Program has been assisting our school in providing supplemental funding to increase tutoring time as well as provide an athletic based program to our Hana Middle School Students. These additional funds have been used to offset the extra tutor/coach and transportation costs involved with expanding the program.

The middle years are a critical time in a child's life. Expanded learning opportunities are critically needed during the after-school hours. Out-of-instruction time programs keep kids on the right path that leads to high school graduation. HB 1756 addresses this critical need for such programs.

We ***strongly support*** HB 1756 and respectfully urge the passage of this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
MILILANI MIDDLE SCHOOL
95-1140 LEHIWA DRIVE
MILILANI, HAWAII 96789

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Human Services
January 28, 2014
State Capitol, Room 329

By Elyne Chung
Principal, Mililani Middle School

HB 1756 – RELATING TO YOUTH

Good morning Chair Carroll, Vice Chair Kobayashi, and members of the committee. My name is Elyne Chung and I am the Principal at Mililani Middle School. I strongly support this measure. House Bill 1756 will establish the R.E.A.C.H. program in the Office of Youth Services to provide a standardized framework for after-school programs in public middle and intermediate schools throughout the state.

A pilot project for R.E.A.C.H. was initiated during the fourth quarter last year thanks to the support from the legislature and the Lieutenant Governor's Office. My school was one of the schools selected to participate in the pilot project. We at Mililani Middle School strongly support HB 1756 because we believe extracurricular after school activities and programs not only enhance student achievement in terms of attendance, behavior, academics and leadership, but also keeps our pre-teen and teenaged students engaged in healthy and productive activities afterschool and on weekends.

Whether it be athletics, the arts, sciences or technology, middle school students need to be involved in programs that help to ignite their passion during these critical years of self-discovery. Extracurricular after school programs outside of the formal classroom environment provide the opportunities for structured social interactions amongst peers and significant adults who facilitate the development of meaningful relationships. The middle school years are a time when adolescents need multiple outlets to engage their time and energy, and extracurricular after school activities help to foster critical skills needed for the development of personal goals and aspirations.

At Mililani Middle School, there are 28 after school clubs/groups with a current enrollment of 612 students and 50 faculty and staff members who support the activities and engage with students. Meeting at least once a week provides our students with additional time with significant adults on campus. As middle school years are a critical time in a child's life, expanded learning opportunities are needed during the after-school hours. After school extracurricular programs keep adolescents on the right path that leads to high school graduation. HB 1756 addresses this critical need for such programs.

We at Mililani Middle School *strongly support* HB 1756 and respectfully urge the passage of this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Elyne Chung
Mililani Middle School Principal

AN AFFIRMATIVE ACTION AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR



KATHRYN S. MATAYOSHI
SUPERINTENDENT

LINDSAY BALL
COMPLEX AREA SUPERINTENDENT

GARY DAVIDSON
PRINCIPAL

Moloka'i Middle School

P O Box 443
2175 Lihipali Avenue
Hoolehua, HI 96729
Phone: 567-6940 Fax: 567-6939

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Human Services
January 28, 2014
State Capital Room
By Gary Davidson
Principal, Molokai Middle School
HB 1756 – RELATING TO YOUTH

Aloha Chair Carroll, Vice Chair Kobayashi, and members of the committee. My name is Gary Davidson and I am the principal of Molokai Middle School. I strongly support House Bill 1756, which seeks to establish the R.E.A.C.H program in the Office of Youth services to provide a standardized framework for after-school programs in public middle and intermediate schools throughout the state.

A pilot project for R.E.A.C.H was initiated during the fourth quarter last year thanks to the support of the legislature and the Lieutenant Governor's Office. Molokai Middle School was one of five schools chosen to participate in the pilot project. We strongly support HB 1756 because small, rural, and isolated schools such as Molokai Middle struggle to provide opportunities and programs other, more affluent and urban schools take for granted. Molokai leads the state in every negative statistic, including but not limited to the highest rates of unemployment, substance abuse, domestic violence, diabetes, and poverty. Our students must overcome many barriers just to show up to school every day, and then we ask them to perform at high academic levels, in spite of those challenges. We cast many nets to catch them before they fall, and our R.E.A.C.H funding means our nets are now finer, catch more students, and provide safety for students that otherwise might fail to reach their potential. Through their extraordinary efforts, Molokai Middle School students have achieved academic success on par with students at larger, better resourced schools in Hawaii and on the mainland. However, a robust after-school program such as that possible through the R.E.A.C.H model ensures additional support in areas such as attendance, behavior, and academic interventions for the education, health, and well-being of our students. Often, that small additional support makes all the difference in a child's life. HB 1756 addresses the critical need for such programs.

We ***strongly support*** HB 1756 and respectfully urge the passage of this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

AN AFFIRMATIVE ACTION AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
WAIAKEA INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL
200 WEST PUAINAKO STREET
HILO, HAWAII 96720-3199
PHONE: (808) 981-7231 FAX: (808) 981-7237

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Human Services
January 28, 2014
State Capitol, Room 329

By Lisa Souza
Principal, Waiakea Intermediate School

HB 1756 – RELATING TO YOUTH

Good morning Chair Carroll, Vice Chair Kobayashi, and members of the committee. My name is Lisa Souza and I am the Principal at Waiakea Intermediate School in Hilo, Hawaii. I strongly support House Bill 1756, which will establish the REACH program in the Office of Youth Services, providing a standardized framework for after-school programs in public middle and intermediate schools throughout the state.

A pilot project for REACH was initiated during the fourth quarter last year thanks to the support from the Legislature and the Lieutenant Governor's Office. Waiakea Intermediate was one of five schools selected to participate in the pilot project. We strongly support HB 1756 because we are able to accept all students who apply to the program, and we have been able to run a variety of daily activities and Clubs after school.

At Waiakea Intermediate School, our after school REACH Clubs include: cooking, baking, Japanese Culture and Language, Hawaiian Culture and Hula, Fitness, Media/Movie Making, Performing Arts, Gardening, School Newspaper (first school newspaper in over 10 years), Life Skills, Sex Education, Science, Writing, Astronomy, Recycling (school wide program), and Simple Snacks. Also provided are: tutoring, homework help and weekly values classes. Over 20% of our student population of 900 is enrolled and participate in these daily programs. REACH would help extend our reach and increase the impact we have on changing students' lives

for the better. The middle school years are a critical time in a child's life. For all of us here on a neighbor island, we are deeply concerned with the easy access that today's adolescents have to drugs, tobacco, alcohol, and other dangerous substances. Expanded learning opportunities are critically needed during the after-school hours. These programs keep students on the right path that leads to high school graduation and education beyond high school.

HB 1756 addresses the critical need for such programs. We strongly support HB 1756 and respectfully urge the passage of this bill. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,



Lisa Souza

Waiakea Intermediate School Principal

HAWAII YOUTH SERVICES NETWORK

677 Ala Moana Boulevard, Suite 702 Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Phone: (808) 531-2198 Fax: (808) 534-1199

Web site: <http://www.hysn.org> E-mail: info@hysn.org

Daryl Selman, President
Judith F. Clark, Executive Director
Aloha House
American Civil Liberties Union of Hawaii
Bay Clinic, Inc.
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Honolulu
Big Island Substance Abuse Council
Blueprint for Change
Bobby Benson Center
Catholic Charities Hawaii
Child and Family Service
Coalition for a Drug Free Hawaii
Courage House Hawaii
Domestic Violence Action Center
EPIC, Inc.
Family Programs Hawaii
Family Support Hawaii
Hale Kipa, Inc.
Hale 'Opio Kauai, Inc.
Hawaii Behavioral Health
Hawaii Student Television
Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies Coalition
Hina Mauka Teen Care
Hui Malama Learning Center
Kaanalike
Kahi Mo'ohala Behavioral Health
KEY (Kualoa-Heeia Ecumenical Youth)
Project
Kids Hurt Too
Kokua Kalihii Valley
Life Foundation
Marimed Foundation
Maui Youth and Family Services
Palama Settlement
P.A.R.E.N.T.S., Inc.
Parents and Children Together (PACT)
Planned Parenthood of Hawaii
REAL
Salvation Army Family Intervention Svcs.
Salvation Army Family Treatment Svcs.
Sex Abuse Treatment Center
Susannah Wesley Community Center
The Catalyst Group
The Children's Alliance of Hawaii
Waikiki Health Center
Women Helping Women
YWCA of Kauai

January 24, 2014

To: Representative Mele Carroll, Chair
And members of the Committee on Human Services

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1756 RELATING TO YOUTH

Hawaii Youth Services Network (HYSN), a statewide coalition of youth-serving organizations, supports HB 1756 Relating to Youth.

High quality after-school programs are effective in reducing the risk of a variety of undesirable behaviors among adolescents, including unplanned pregnancy, sexually transmitted infections, juvenile crime, and substance abuse. They can increase school achievement, reduce dropout rates, and provide service learning opportunities that teach young people the value of contributing back to their communities.

Hawaii has the highest percentage of households in the United States in which all adults are employed. These working families need after school programs to ensure that children are safe and engaged in productive activities.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



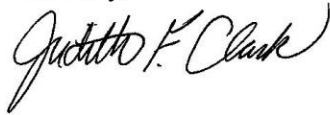
Judith F. Clark, MPH

The 24-hour crisis response will follow the National Safe Place model, in which community partners, such as fire stations and public bus systems are recruited as places where young people can go in an emergency. It may include local businesses and stores, enabling them to provide a valuable community service to youth and their families. Staff in those companies are trained and provided with a 24-hour number to call. Workers from the 24-hour site assess the situation and can arrange emergency shelter, make reports to Child Protective Service, or provide other appropriate responses to the situation.

The Safe Places for Youth Network will help youth and families resolve problems before they get out of control.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Judith F. Clark". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J' and 'C'.

Judith F. Clark, MPH
Executive Director



TESTIMONY OF
TOM APPLE
PRESIDENT, REACH OUT HAWAII
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

HOUSE BILL NO. 1756
Relating to Youth After-School Programs

January 28, 2014

Chair Carroll, Vice Chair Kobayashi, and members of the House Committee on Human Services, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **strong support** of House Bill No. 1756.

I am Tom Apple, Chancellor of the University of Hawaii Manoa and also President of a non-profit organization called REACH Out Hawaii which was recently established to support the state's R.E.A.C.H. initiative of developing a comprehensive framework for after-school programs for public middle and intermediate schools throughout the state.

Our mission at REACH Out Hawaii is to leverage resources from the private and public sector to build a sustainable funding base for high quality programs that keep our kids engaged in learning so they can succeed in school and in life. As a Chancellor at one of the state's only public institution for higher education, I have a personal stake in promoting and supporting R.E.A.C.H. as middle schools are the pipeline to high schools which in turn are the pipeline to college. We are all too familiar with the need to increase both our high school graduation and college going rates. In order to affect this, we need to place more attention at the middle school level and this bill will achieve this. The need to leverage the power of expanded learning opportunities after school has never been greater as our world has become increasingly complex. We have come to realize that instructional hours alone cannot support all of the learning needs required to adequately prepare Hawaii's youth not only for higher education, but for a career in the 21st century and a globally competitive job market.

We **strongly support** HB 1756 and respectfully urge the passage of this bill. The bill addresses a critical need for Hawaii's middle school students.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

After School Programs for Middle/Intermediate Schools

www.reachouthawaii.org



492-0561

200 Akamainui Street
Mililani, Hawaii 96789-3999
Tel: 808-625-2100
Fax: 808-625-5888



Honorable Mele Carroll, Chair
House Committee on Human Services

RE: HB 1756 – Relating to Youth – In Support
January 28, 2014; 9:30 AM, Hawaii State Capitol Room 329

Aloha Chair Carroll, Vice Chair Kobayashi and members of the committee,

I appreciate this opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of HB 1756, which establishes resources for the R.E.A.C.H. program in the Office of Youth Services to provide a framework and funding for after-school programs in public middle and intermediate schools.

I am a member of the R.E.A.C.H. Advisory Board and believe there is a critical need to provide safe, supervised after-hours programs that are of interest to public middle and intermediate students. Far too many adolescents are left on their own during these hours and are prone to risky behavior. The intent of R.E.A.C.H. is to keep them engaged in athletics, academic enrichment, or arts and culture which we hope will assist in developing skills and improving their lives.

The mission of R.E.A.C.H. is to leverage resources from the private and public sector to build a sustainable funding base so we can offer quality programs. Oceanic Time Warner Cable has committed cash and in-kind donations totaling \$60,000 toward this effort.

For these reasons, I ask for your support in passing HB 1756. Thank you.

Bob Barlow
President



TESTIMONY OF
LESLIE WILKINS
VICE PRESIDENT, MAUI ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BOARD
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

HOUSE BILL NO. 1756
Relating to Youth After-School Programs

January 28, 2014

Aloha Chair Carroll, Vice Chair Kobayashi and members of the committee:

We would like to offer this testimony in **strong support of HB 1756**, which establishes the R.E.A.C.H. program in the Office of Youth Services to and provides much needed funding for after-school programs in public middle and intermediate schools.

I am a member of the R.E.A.C.H. Advisory Board and actively support the efforts to create a comprehensive statewide approach to after school programs at the middle school level. I believe there is a critical need to provide safe, supervised after-hours programs. There are nearly 70,000 adolescents left on their own during the hours after school gets out, making them vulnerable to drug and tobacco use, alcohol, sex, crime and other risky behavior. Through R.E.A.C.H., these students have the opportunity to be in engaged in athletics, academic enrichment, or arts and culture – programs and activities aimed at developing responsibility, confidence and a sense of community in Hawaii's youth.

The mission of R.E.A.C.H. is to leverage resources from the private and public sector to build a sustainable funding base so that quality programs can be offered. Funding is a key component to state wide programs at the middle school level and this bill will serve to fulfill this critical need. The need to leverage the power of expanded learning opportunities after school has never been greater as the world has become increasingly complex. After school programs provide learning opportunities that help our youth better prepare for high school and a successful life.

We **strongly support** HB 1756 and respectfully urge the passage of this bill.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Leslie Wilkins', is written over a light blue watermark.

Leslie Wilkins
Vice President
Maui Economic Development Board





STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Human Services
January 28, 2014
State Capitol, Room 329

By: Richard W. Paul
Principal, Hana High and Elementary

HB 1756 – RELATING TO YOUTH

Good morning Chair Carroll, Vice Chair Kobayashi, and members of the committee. My name is Richard Paul and I am the Principal at Hana High and Elementary School. I **strongly support** this measure. House Bill 1756 seeks to establish the R.E.A.C.H program in the Office of Youth Services to provide a standardized framework for after-school programs in public middle and intermediate schools throughout the state.

A pilot project for R.E.A.C.H. was initiated during the fourth quarter last year thanks to the support from the legislature and the Lieutenant Governor's Office. My school was one of the schools selected to participate in the pilot project. We strongly support HB 1756 because the R.E.A.C.H. Program has been assisting our school in providing supplemental funding to increase tutoring time as well as provide an athletic based program to our Hana Middle School Students, most of whom are at-risk students. These additional funds have been used to offset the extra tutor/coach and transportation costs involved with expanding the program.

The middle years are a critical time in a child's life. Expanded learning opportunities are critically needed during the after-school hours. Out-of-instruction time programs keep kids on the right path that leads to high school graduation. HB 1756 addresses the critical need for such programs it provides for students.

We **strongly support** HB 1756 and respectfully urge the passage of this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



TESTIMONY OF
Michael K. Harano
Principal, Washington Middle School
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

HOUSE BILL NO. 1756
Relating to Youth After-School Programs

January 28, 2014

Chair Carroll, Vice Chair Kobayashi, and members of the House Committee on Human Services, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in ***strong support*** of House Bill No. 1756. My name is Michael Harano and I am the Principal at Washington Middle School.

R.E.A.C.H. is an initiative aimed at keeping Hawaii's youth engaged and excited about learning during the after school hours so they can stay on the right path towards high school graduation. As a middle school principal, I feel that this bill is so important because it is in the middle years that we begin to lose our students. The after school hours are especially dangerous times for our adventurous middle schoolers who without developmentally appropriate programs and adult supervision naturally gravitate towards their peers. In many instances this leads towards experimentation with tobacco, alcohol and drugs, promiscuity or criminal activity.

At Washington Middle School, we have benefitted from receiving 21st Century Community Learning Center grant funding that has increased our after school participation rate by over 150 students. We have seen amongst these participants a decrease in absenteeism and behavior referrals and an increase in grades and test scores. But more important than the numbers is the fact that we are able to see our students grow and mature into upstanding youth who demonstrate the positive character traits that will help them contribute to our community and state. The academic school day alone is not enough. Our students need a quality after school program to balance and provide for their social and emotional growth. I am concerned about the decline I will see when the 21st Century grant funding sunsets at the end of this school year.

Studies show that students who attend quality after school programs have improved attendance and behavior in class, lower course failures and higher graduation rates. After school and summer programs offer expanded learning opportunities and the potential to positively affect the lives of the youth in this state.

HB 1756 addresses this critical need for Hawaii's middle school students. I ***strongly support*** it and respectfully urge the passage of this bill.

Thank you for your consideration,

Michael K. Harano, Principal



HB1756
RELATING TO YOUTH
House Committee on Human Services

January 28, 2014

9:30 a.m.

Room 329

The Administration of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) will recommend to the Beneficiary Advocacy and Empowerment Committee of OHA's Board of Trustees a position of "**SUPPORT**" on HB1756, which would establish a Resources for Enrichment, Athletics, Culture, and Health (REACH) Program within the Office of Youth Services.

The REACH initiative proposes to fill the current void of after-school activities for public middle and intermediate students with an organizational framework for student programs that will ensure that our 'ōpio at this highly impressionable and vulnerable age receive the kind of positive support and educational stimulation to keep them motivated and engaged in academic enrichment, arts and culture, and athletics.

In recognition of the critical need to create after-school programming for our 'ōpio, the OHA Board of Trustees on December 5, 2014 approved an allocation of \$75,000 to expand REACH programs at Moloka'i Middle School by 60 students and Hāna High and Elementary School by 20 to 30 students.

Therefore, the OHA Administration urges the committee to **PASS** HB1756. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



HPCA

HAWAI'I PRIMARY CARE ASSOCIATION

House Committee on Human Services

The Hon. Mele Carroll, Chair

The Hon. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

Testimony on House Bill 1756

Relating to Youth

Submitted by Robert Hirokawa, Chief Executive Officer

01/28/2014, 9:30 A.M., Room 329

The Hawai'i Primary Care Association, which represents community health centers in Hawai'i, **supports** House Bill 1756 which establishes the Resources for Enrichment, Athletics, Culture, and Health program in the Office of Youth Services.

The HPCA is a staunch believer in the social determinants of health, those economic and social conditions that influence an individual and a community's health status. These conditions serve as risk factors endemic to a person's living and working environment, rather than their behavioral or genetic histories. Factors such as home life, income, education, access to recreation and healthy foods, and housing environments can and do have measurable impacts on a person and a community, both in health and financial outcomes. Our youth need healthy, safe after-school opportunities that engage and connect them with positive experiences and outcomes in their lives. The health of our communities and the health of our future largely depend on the environments we provide our keiki to grow up in. The REACH program created by this measure is a good start to address this vital need for our youth while addressing social determinants of health.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

MICAH A. KĀNE

45-135 MOAMAHI WAY, KĀNEOHE, HI 96744 | (808) 216-3000 | MICAHKANE@HAWAII.RR.COM

TESTIMONY OF
MICAH A. KĀNE
PACIFIC LINKS HAWAII, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES
January 28, 2014 at 9:30 a.m.

HOUSE BILL NO. 1756
Relating to Youth After-School Programs, R.E.A.C.H.

Aloha Chair Carroll, Vice Chair Kobayashi and members of the committee:

I would like to offer this testimony in **strong support for HB 1756**, which establishes the R.E.A.C.H. program in the Office of Youth Services to and provides much needed funding for after-school programs in our public middle and intermediate schools.

In addition to being the CEO of Pacific Links Hawai'i and a Trustee of Kamehameha Schools, I am also a member of the R.E.A.C.H. Advisory Board. I joined this board because I firmly believe in the need to have a comprehensive statewide approach to after school programs at the middle school level. As a working parent, I strongly support the development of safe, supervised after-hours programs and know first-hand the peace of mind that comes from knowing that my daughters are someplace safe and engaged in healthy, productive activities right after school is out. Yet, there continues to be nearly thousands of adolescents left on their own during the hours after school, making them vulnerable to drug and tobacco use, alcohol, sex, crime and other risky behavior. Through R.E.A.C.H., these students have the opportunity to be in engaged in athletics, academic enrichment, or arts and culture – programs and activities aimed at developing responsibility, confidence and a sense of community in Hawai'i's youth.

Part of the non-profit entity's mission that is associated with R.E.A.C.H. is to leverage resources from the private and public sector to build a sustainable funding base so that quality programs can be offered. Funding is a key component to state wide programs at the middle school level and this bill will serve to fulfill this critical need. The need to leverage the power of expanded learning opportunities after school has never been greater as the world has become increasingly complex. After school programs provide learning opportunities that help our youth better prepare for high school and a successful life.

I **strongly support** HB 1756 and humbly ask the committee to pass this bill.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Micah A. Kāne

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Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Human Services
January 28, 2014
State Capitol, Room 329

LATE TESTIMONY

By Paula Adams
Program Director, Fun 5 Program, Kaho'omiki
Afterschool Ambassador, Afterschool Alliance

HB 1756 – RELATING TO YOUTH


Good morning Carroll, Vice Chair Kobayashi, and members of the committee. My name is Paula Adams, Fun 5 Program Director for Kahoomiki and Afterschool Ambassador for the Afterschool Alliance. Kahoomiki, the Afterschool Alliance and I strongly support this measure. House Bill 1756 seeks to establish the R.E.A.C.H (which stands for resources for enrichment, athletics, culture and health) program in the Office of Youth Services to provide a standardized framework for afterschool programs in public middle and intermediate schools throughout the state.

A pilot project for R.E.A.C.H. was initiated during the fourth quarter last year thanks to the support from the legislature and the Lieutenant Governor's Office. We have been working closely with this project to help facilitating its implementation.

The middle years are a critical time in a child's life where disengagement can start to take hold. The hours between 3:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. are considered to be the riskiest time for middle-school-age children as they are often left alone. Juvenile crime, drug rehabilitation, counseling and other forms of intervention result in higher costs to taxpayers. The bottom line is that afterschool programs keep kids on the path that leads to high school, college, career, and ultimately a better life. The afterschool alliance shows that afterschool programs keep kids safe, help working families and inspire learning. We believe that HB 1756 addresses this critical need for such programs.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the legislature for their support with the pilot project and hope that middle schools students in this state will get the support they need to stay on right track during the vulnerable hours afterschool.

We strongly support HB 1756 and respectfully urge the passage of this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



Paula Adams
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