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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO YOUTH.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that in the United  
2 States, more than one-fourth of the children, or fifteen  
3 million, are left alone and unsupervised after school. Thirty  
4 per cent of middle school students, or nearly four million, are  
5 left unsupervised until their parents return home from work.

6           The legislature further finds that juvenile violence peaks  
7 in the after-school hours on school days and in the evenings on  
8 non-school days. Sixty-three per cent of violent crimes  
9 committed by juveniles occur on school days, while nearly one-  
10 fifth of all juvenile violent crimes occur between the hours of  
11 3:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. During fiscal year 2013, the police  
12 made over three thousand arrests of juveniles between the ages  
13 of twelve and fourteen in Hawaii.

14           The legislature finds that according to the superintendent  
15 of education's annual report of 2011, Hawaii's dropout rate has  
16 reached over sixteen per cent, with a graduation rate of only  
17 around eighty per cent. Nearly half of the high school drop  
18 outs reported that they started high school ill-prepared.



1           The legislature further finds that research indicates that  
2 each disconnected youth costs taxpayers nearly \$14,000 per year,  
3 which can continue and even increase in the future as some  
4 disenfranchised youth become part of the juvenile justice  
5 system. The stakes of youth disengagement are high. Once  
6 students are disconnected, recruitment, enrollment, and  
7 retention programs require stronger and more persistent  
8 outreach, more intensive services, and more long-term  
9 participation.

10           Middle and intermediate school years are a pivotal time for  
11 keiki, a time when they can succumb to peer pressure and  
12 significantly derail their education and futures. Accordingly,  
13 participation in high-quality after-school programs can lead to  
14 improved school attendance, better behavior, and better academic  
15 performance. Keeping our keiki engaged in positive after-school  
16 activities will help keep them on the path toward graduation and  
17 productive futures.

18           Currently, there are approximately thirty-nine thousand  
19 middle and intermediate public school students in Hawaii.  
20 Approximately half of the roughly fifty-one middle and  
21 intermediate schools in the State receive some federal or state



1 funding for after-school programing; however, such funding is  
2 inconsistent or unreliable.

3       The legislature finds that in March 2013, the lieutenant  
4 governor established the resources for enrichment, athletics,  
5 culture, and health (R.E.A.C.H.) initiative to develop a  
6 standardized framework and funding for after-school programs for  
7 public middle and intermediate school students throughout the  
8 State. The establishment of a state-subsidized after-school  
9 program for middle and intermediate public school students is  
10 important to the future of keiki and the welfare of our State as  
11 a whole.

12       The legislature further finds that the office of youth  
13 services, within the department of human services, provides  
14 comprehensive front end services and programs for youth to  
15 prevent delinquency and reduce the incidence of recidivism. The  
16 office is dedicated to creating opportunities for youth to  
17 develop competencies that foster resiliency and enable them to  
18 achieve a successful transition to young adulthood. The  
19 legislature determines that the objectives of the R.E.A.C.H.  
20 initiative are wholly aligned with those of the office of youth  
21 services.

22       The purpose of this Act is to:



- 1 (1) Statutorily establish the R.E.A.C.H. program within
- 2 the office of youth services to provide a standardized
- 3 framework and funding for after-school programs in
- 4 public middle and intermediate schools;
- 5 (2) Establish a revolving fund to receive fees and other
- 6 moneys to supplement the costs of administering and
- 7 operating the program;
- 8 (3) Appropriate funds for establishing the R.E.A.C.H.
- 9 program to provide funding for after-school programs
- 10 in middle and intermediate public schools; and
- 11 (4) Establish one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) position
- 12 to support the program and appropriate funds for that
- 13 position.

14 SECTION 2. Chapter 352D, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
15 amended by adding three new sections to be appropriately  
16 designated and to read as follows:

17 **"§352D-A Resources for enrichment, athletics, culture, and**  
18 **health (R.E.A.C.H.) program; established.** There is established  
19 the resources for enrichment, athletics, culture, and health  
20 program, hereinafter referred to as the R.E.A.C.H. program,  
21 within the office.

1           §352D-B R.E.A.C.H. program; powers and duties of the  
2 office. (a) The office shall provide funding to establish,  
3 support, or enhance after-school programs in public middle and  
4 intermediate schools. The office may enter into contracts with  
5 middle and intermediate schools, individuals, organizations, or  
6 other entities to provide after-school programs to public middle  
7 and intermediate schools.

8           (b) The office shall:

- 9           (1) Establish criteria, application, selection, and award  
10           processes for funding after-school programs;  
11           (2) Monitor the after-school programs within each school;  
12           (3) Conduct site evaluations for schools with after-school  
13           programs funded under the resources for the R.E.A.C.H.  
14           program; and  
15           (4) Ensure each after-school program meets contractual  
16           expectations.

17           (c) The office may establish participation fees and other  
18 charges to be assessed to each student for the cost of  
19 administering and operating the resources for the R.E.A.C.H.  
20 program. The revenues shall be deposited into the revolving  
21 fund established pursuant to section 352D-C and shall be used to  
22 supplement the costs of administering and operating the program.



1        §352D-C R.E.A.C.H. program revolving fund. (a) There is  
2        established the R.E.A.C.H. program revolving fund to be  
3        administered by the office.

4        (b) The R.E.A.C.H. program revolving fund shall consist  
5        of:

6        (1) Fees collected by the office for administering and  
7        operating the R.E.A.C.H. program, and for the  
8        provision of program services;

9        (2) Legislative appropriations;

10       (3) All interest earned on the deposit or investment of  
11       moneys in the R.E.A.C.H. program revolving fund; and

12       (4) Any other moneys made available to the R.E.A.C.H.  
13       program revolving fund from any other sources."

14       SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
15       revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$3,100,000 or so much  
16       thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2014-2015 to be  
17       deposited into the R.E.A.C.H. program revolving fund.

18       SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the R.E.A.C.H.  
19       program revolving fund the sum of \$3,100,000 or so much thereof  
20       as may be necessary for fiscal year 2014-2015 to carry out the  
21       purpose of this Act, including the establishment and operation

1 of the R.E.A.C.H. program and hiring of one full-time equivalent  
2 (1.0 FTE) position for the office of youth services.

3 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of  
4 human services for the purposes of this Act.

5 SECTION 5. In codifying the new sections added by section  
6 2 of this Act, the revisor of statutes shall substitute  
7 appropriate section numbers for the letters used in designating  
8 the new sections in this Act.

9 SECTION 6. New statutory material is underscored.

10 SECTION 7. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2014.



**Report Title:**

Youth; After-school Programs; R.E.A.C.H. Program; Appropriation

**Description:**

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. (SD1)

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