



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

March 24, 2014

TO: The Honorable David Y. Ige, Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

FROM: David Hipp, Executive Director

SUBJECT: H.B. 1756, HD1, SD1 – RELATING TO YOUTH

Hearing: Tuesday, March 25, 2014; 9:05 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 211

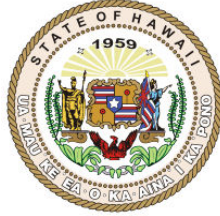
PURPOSE: The purpose of H.B. 1756, HD1, SD1 Relating to Youth, is to establish the resources for enrichment, athletics, culture and health (R.E.A.C.H.) program in the Office of Youth Services (OYS) to provide a standardized framework and funding for after-schools programs in public middle and intermediate 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, HD1, SD1 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 in the juvenile justice arena.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.



OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
STATE OF HAWAII
STATE CAPITOL
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

SHAN S. TSUTSUI
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

TESTIMONY OF
THE OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
TO THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

HOUSE BILL NO. 1756, HD1, SD1
Relating to Youth After-School Programs

March 25, 2014

Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, and members of the committees, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **support** of House Bill No. (HB) 1756, HD1, SD1. This measure seeks to establish a program that will provide after-school programs in public middle and intermediate schools throughout the state of Hawaii. R.E.A.C.H., which is an acronym 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.

This bill establishes new sections under Chapter 352D, 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 in the Executive Supplemental Budget (HB1700, HD1), including one full-time equivalent position. We would appreciate the committee's support in ensuring that there is an appropriation to implement REACH in the budget. Provisions in the bill allow for participation fees to be established which would serve to supplement the cost of administering and operating the program and enhance the sustainability of REACH. 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, Kawananako Middle, Mililani Middle, Molokai Middle, and Waiakea Intermediate. Implementation of this pilot project commenced earlier this year, 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 in February.

In conclusion, we would like to thank the legislature for its support with the pilot project and hope that we can continue to build upon what we started in 2013. The middle school 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. This bill addresses a critical need for Hawaii's middle school students.

The Office of the Lieutenant Governor ***strongly supports*** HB 1756, HD1, SD1 and respectfully urges the passage of this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

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 Mohala Behavioral Health
KEY (Kualoa-Heeia Ecumenical Youth)
Project
Kids Hurt Too
Kokua Kalihi 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

March 24, 2014

To: Senator David Ige, Chair
And members of the Committee on Ways and Means

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1756 HD 1 SD 1 RELATING TO YOUTH

Hawaii Youth Services Network (HYSN), a statewide coalition of youth-serving organizations, supports HB 1756 HD 1 SD 1 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



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

TESTIMONY OF

Elynn E Chung, Principal, Mililani Middle School

TO THE

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

HOUSE BILL NO. 1756, HD1, SD1

Relating to Youth After-School Program

HB 1756, HD1, SD1- RELATING TO YOUTH

Good morning Chair Carroll, Vice Chair Kobayashi, and members of the committee. My name is Elynn 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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Elynne E. Chung". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Elynne E. Chung
Mililani Middle School Principal



HB1756 HD1 SD1
RELATING TO YOUTH
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

March 25, 2014

9:05 a.m.

Room 211

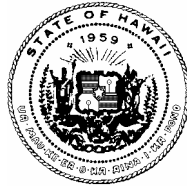
The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** HB1756 HD1, SD1, which would establish a Resources for Enrichment, Athletics, Culture and Health (REACH) Program within the Office of Youth Services.

The REACH initiative proposes to fill the current void of after-school activities for public middle and intermediate school students with an organizational framework, which 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, 2013 approved an allocation of \$75,000 to establish REACH programs at Moloka‘i Middle School and Hāna High and Elementary School.

Therefore, OHA urges the committee to **PASS** HB 1756 HD1, SD1.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

March 25, 2014

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable David Y. Ige, Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

FROM: Patricia McManaman, Director

SUBJECT: **H.B. 1756, H.D.1, S.D.1 - RELATING TO YOUTH**

Hearing: Tuesday, March 25, 2014; 9:05 a.m.
Conference Room 211, State Capitol

PURPOSE: The purpose of this bill is to statutorily establish the Resources for Enrichment, Athletics, Culture, and Health (R.E.A.C.H.) program within the Office of Youth Services to provide after-school programs in public middle and intermediate schools; establish a special fund; and appropriate funds to establish the program and one full-time position.

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports H.B. 1756, H.D.1, S.D.1.

Middle school aged children represent nearly half of all first time juvenile arrests in our state. Providing quality after school programming for middle school children through the R.E.A.C.H. program will positively impact school attendance and success, and is a critical prevention tool. Prevention is a critical component in the juvenile

justice continuum of services, and this program will provide youth a sense of belonging through enrichment activities connected to their schools and their schooling.

We respectfully request the approval of the funding for the R.E.A.C.H. included in the Governor's Executive Supplemental Budget.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this bill.

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



Honorable David Ige, Chair
Honorable Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

RE: HB 1756 HD1 SD1 – Relating to Youth – In Support; Request Amendments
March 25, 2014; 9:05 AM; Hawaii State Capitol, Room 211

Aloha Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani and members of the committee,

I appreciate this opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of HB 1756 HD1 SD1, 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.

I ask for your support in passing HB 1756 HD1 SD1 with amendments to reinstate the \$3,100,000 appropriation and an effective date of July 1, 2014. Thank you for your consideration.

Bob Barlow
President



TESTIMONY OF
Dawn M. Dunbar
President & CEO, After-School All-Stars Hawaii

TO THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
March 24, 2014

HB NO. 1756, HD 1, SD 1
Relating to Youth After-School Programs – R.E.A.C.H.

Aloha Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani and members of the committee:

I support House Bill No. (HB) 1756 which establishes the R.E.A.C.H. program in the Office of Youth Services and provides much needed funding for after-school programs in our public middle and intermediate schools.

As a provider of structured after-school programs, specifically targeting our sixth, seventh and eighth graders in our public schools, I get to see every day, the impact of our programs. We serve some of the most disadvantaged communities, and so it is truly an opportunity to provide classes such as Cooking, Hip Hop Dance, Hawaiiana, Slam Poetry, Gardening, Football, Soccer, Volleyball, Tennis, etc. to kids who would otherwise be sitting at home, getting into trouble, and influenced by the peer pressures of drugs, sex and alcohol. It is fulfilling to see our participants genuinely engaging in fun activities. That's why this bill is important to our students, working families, schools, and the community as a whole. After-school programs for this age group is critical – because our participants want to have a safe place to go, with the opportunity to participate in a variety of activities, not to mention being surrounded by positive role models.

We've found that there aren't many alternatives for Hawaii's youth, when it comes to after-school programming in the middle schools. It pains me when a single working mother calls to ask if we have programs running at Moanalua Middle School because her daughter is transitioning from elementary to sixth grade, and does not know what to do with her at 2:15 p.m. when the bell rings. She worried about what her daughter would do for three or so hours until she got home, let alone where she would go since she couldn't walk home.

Quality after-school programs have shown to set students on the right path. In our five years here in Hawaii, we have seen tremendous growth in our participants, both academically and socially. The after-school hours provide a uniquely creative and entrepreneurial time in the field of public education. We are able to leverage community resources; provide engaging learning opportunities; address the major issues kids face today, and provide practical solutions for working families in under resourced communities. Our vision is for all All-Star students to achieve what we hope for our own children: to be safe and healthy, to graduate high school and go on to college, to find careers they love and then give back to their communities. If we can capture our youth at this age, there is so much opportunity to set them up for future success.

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

Thank you for your consideration.

Best regards,

Dawn M. Dunbar
President & CEO, After-School All-Stars Hawaii



TESTIMONY OF
TOM APPLE, REACH OUT HAWAII
TO THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS

HOUSE BILL NO. 1756, HD1, SD1
Relating to Youth After-School Programs

March 25, 2014

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **support** of this measure. HB 1756, HD1, SD1 represents an upfront investment in Hawai'i's youth by establishing the REACH program under the state Office of Youth Services. 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 established to support the state's R.E.A.C.H. initiative of developing a 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. Middle schools are part of the pipeline to higher education. 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. This bill will help 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 Hawai'i's youth not only for higher education, but for a career in the 21st century and a globally competitive job market.

We **support** House Bill No. 1756, HD1, SD1 and respectfully ask the committee for support in ensuring the program is funded. This bill addresses a critical need for Hawai'i's middle school students.

Thank you for your consideration.

