

# HB 1756

## HD1

<b>Measure Title:</b>	RELATING TO YOUTH.
<b>Report Title:</b>	Youth; After-school Programs; R.E.A.C.H. Program; Appropriation (\$)
<b>Description:</b>	Statutorily establishes 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. Establishes revolving fund. Appropriates funds to establish the program and one full-time position. Effective July 1, 2050. (HB1756 HD1)
<b>Companion:</b>	
<b>Package:</b>	None
<b>Current Referral:</b>	HMS/EDU, WAM
<b>Introducer(s):</b>	CARROLL, MCKELVEY, WOODSON, YAMASHITA, Ing, Souki



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 HUMAN SERVICES  
AND  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

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

March 12, 2014

Chair Chun Oakland, Chair Tokuda, and members of the committees, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony. We **support** House Bill No.1756, HD1. We also ask for the committee's support in ensuring that funding in the amount of \$3.1 million is appropriated for the R.E.A.C.H. program.

This measure seeks to establish a program that provides 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 after-school 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.

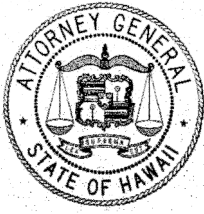
House Bill No. 1756, HD1 establishes new sections under Chapter 352D of the Hawaii Revised Statutes to establish the R.E.A.C.H. program in the Office of Youth Services in order to provide a standardized framework for afterschool programs offered in public middle/intermediate schools. The program will 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. An appropriation of \$3.1 million was 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, Kawanakoa Middle, Mililani Middle, Molokai Middle, and Waiakea Intermediate. Implementation of this pilot project commenced last month and we were 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 for 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.

We **support** HB 1756, HD1, and respectfully ask for full funding of this program. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



**TESTIMONY OF  
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE, 2014**

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**ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:**

H.B. NO. 1756, H.D. 1, RELATING TO YOUTH.

**BEFORE THE:**

SENATE COMMITTEES ON HUMAN SERVICES AND ON EDUCATION

**DATE:** Wednesday, March 12, 2014 **TIME:** 1:15 p.m.

**LOCATION:** State Capitol, Room 414

**TESTIFIER(S):** David M. Louie, Attorney General, or  
Blair Goto, Deputy Attorney General

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Chairs Chun Oakland and Tokuda and Members of the Committees:

The Department of the Attorney General provides the following comments.

The purpose of the bill is to establish the resources for an enrichment, athletics, culture, and health (R.E.A.C.H.) program within the Office of Youth Services (Office), to establish a revolving fund to support the R.E.A.C.H. program, and to appropriate an unspecified amount into and out of the revolving fund to operate the program including the hiring of one full-time equivalent position in the Office.

Section 2 of the bill adds three new sections to chapter 352D, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS). On page 6 of the bill, lines 1-3, section 352D-C establishes the R.E.A.C.H. program revolving fund (fund). On page 5 of the bill, lines 17-21, section 352D-B(c) requires that participation fees and charges to students be used "to supplement the cost of administering and operating the program." Because participant or user fees will be used to supplement only the cost of the R.E.A.C.H. program, we recommend that the fund be established as a special fund and not as a revolving fund. See, e.g., HRS §§ 94-8 (2013) (state archives preservation and long-term access special fund), 142-28.5 (2011) (animal quarantine special fund), 184-3.5 (2011) (state parks special fund), and 245-41.5 (2001) (cigarette tax stamp administrative special fund). This change may be made by replacing the word "revolving" with the word "special" wherever it occurs in the bill.

Section 352D-C, which establishes the fund, is also incomplete. Although it both creates the fund and specifies sources of the fund, section 352D-C does not specify the uses for which

moneys in the fund may be expended. The absence of this statutory wording will prevent the expenditure of moneys in the fund.

The simplest way to enable expenditure of moneys in the fund is to add on page 6 of the bill a subsection (c) to section 352D-C that describes the uses for which moneys in the fund may be expended. An example of subsection (c) might read:

(c) Moneys in the R.E.A.C.H. program special fund shall be used to supplement the costs of administering and operating after-school programs in middle and intermediate public schools. The office may also use the money to:

- (1) Hire personnel to implement, operate, and oversee after-school programs;
- (2) Promote after-school program activities;
- (3) Conduct after-school enrichment activities related to R.E.A.C.H.;
- (4) Contract for services for after school programs; and
- (5) Fund associated expenses for after-school programs.

We respectfully ask the Committees to make the requested amendments to the bill if the bill is to pass.



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

**Date:** 03/12/2014

**Committee:** Senate Education  
Senate Human Services

**Department:** Education

**Person Testifying:** Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

**Title of Bill:** HB 1756,HD1(hscr702-14) RELATING TO YOUTH.

**Purpose of Bill:** Statutorily establishes 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. Establishes revolving fund. Appropriates funds to establish the program and one full-time position. Effective July 1, 2015.  
(HB1756 HD1)

**Department's Position:**

The Department of Education (Education) supports the substantive content of HB 1756 HD1 that proposes to establish the R.E.A.C.H. program. The middle school years are a critical time in a child's life. Middle and intermediate after-school programs will keep students engaged and allow them to explore activities that will serve to promote a positive lifestyle and achieve a successful transition to young adulthood.



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

**Senate Committee on Education  
Senate Committee on Human Services**

Wednesday, March 12, 2014  
1:15 p.m.  
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 414

**Testimony of Keith Amemiya**

**House Bill 1756 HD1 Relating to Youth After-School Programs – R.E.A.C.H**

Dear Chair Tokuda, Chair Chun Oakland and members of the committee:

I ***strongly support*** House Bill 1756 HD1 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.

I currently serve as a member of the R.E.A.C.H. Advisory Board and have been an advocate for education and youth sports programs for many years now. 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. This bill is very important because adolescents in this age group are especially vulnerable to peer pressure. High quality after-school programs are effective in reducing a variety of undesirable behaviors including the use of drugs, tobacco, and alcohol that can lead to substance abuse, teen pregnancy, sexually transmitted disease, and juvenile crime. Working parents need after school programs to ensure that their children are safe and engaged in positive, productive, activities.

As the former Executive Director of Hawaii High School Athletics Association, I know the value that after school programs have for young adolescents first hand. Through R.E.A.C.H., these students have the opportunity to be engaged in athletics, academic enrichment, or arts and culture – programs and activities outside of instructional hours which are important for their physical, social and emotional development and well-being. These programs will foster character-building, responsibility, confidence and a sense of community in Hawaii's youth.

This bill addresses a 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.



**HB1756 HD1**  
**RELATING TO YOUTH**  
Senate Committee on Education  
Senate Committee on Human Services

March 12, 2014

1:15 p.m.

Room 414

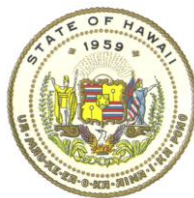
The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** HB1756 HD1, which would establish a Resources for Enrichment, Athletics, Culture and Health (REACH) Program within the Office of Youth Services.

The REACH initiative proposes to fill the current void of after-school activities for public middle and intermediate students with an organizational framework 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, 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 Committees to **PASS** HB 1756 HD1. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify on this measure.





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

March 11, 2014

TO: The Honorable Jill N. Tokuda, Chair  
Senate Committee on Education

The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland  
Senate Committee on Human Services

FROM: David Hipp, Executive Director

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

Hearing: Wednesday, March 12, 2014; 1:15 p.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 414

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of H.B. 1756, HD1, 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, 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.

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.

In its testimony to the House Committee on Finance dated February 21, 2014, the Department of the Attorney General suggested language for enabling the expenditures of moneys. The sample language from the Department of the Attorney has been modified, and it is recommended that H.B. 1756, HD1 be amended to include the following language, to be inserted as Subsection (c) to Section 352D-C, page 6, at line 14:

(c) Moneys in the R.E.A.C.H program revolving fund shall be used to supplement the costs of administering and operating after-school programs in middle and intermediate public schools. The office may also use the money to:

- (1) Hire personnel to implement, operate and oversee of the resources for enrichment, athletics, culture, and health program;
- (2) Promote after-school program activities;
- (3) Conduct after-school enrichment activities related to REACH;
- (4) Contract for services for after-school programs; and
- (5) Fund associated expenses for after-school programs.

This language is consistent with the recommended amendment to the companion bill, S. B. 2441, SD2.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.



TESTIMONY OF  
TOM APPLE, REACH OUT HAWAII  
TO THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES  
AND  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

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

March 12, 2014

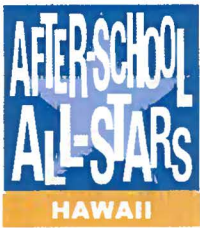
Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in *support* of House Bill No.1756, HD1 which establishes the REACH program under the state Office of Youth Services. I am Tom Apple, Chancellor of the University of Hawaii Manoa and also President of a non-profit organization called REACH Out Hawaii 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 Hawaii's youth not only for higher education, but for a career in the 21<sup>st</sup> century and a globally competitive job market.

We *support* House Bill No. 1756, HD1 and respectfully ask the committee to reinstate the effective date. This bill addresses a critical need for Hawaii's middle school students.

Thank you for your consideration.





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

TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES  
March 11, 2014

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

Aloha Chair Carroll 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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Dawn M. Dunbar', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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

# 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](mailto: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 8, 2014

To: Senator Jill Tokuda, Chair  
And members of the Committee on Education

Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair  
And members of the Committee on Human Services

## **TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1756 HD 1 RELATING TO YOUTH**

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

841 Bishop St., Suite 301  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813



Telephone: 808 926-1530  
Contact@HEECoalition.org

Senate Committee on Education  
Senator Jill Tokuda, Chair  
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair

March 12, 2014

Dear Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kidani, and Committee Members:

This testimony is submitted in support for HB1756 HD1, establishing a statewide afterschool program, R.E.A.C.H, within the Office of Youth Services, and the financial appropriations to support the program.

The Hui for Excellence in Education (HE'E) is a diverse coalition of over 40 parent and community organizations dedicated to improving student achievement by increasing family and community engagement and partnerships in our schools. Our member list is attached.

One issue that is of high priority to Coalition members is school safety, including bullying, addressing students at-risk, and looking for ways to keep children in school. Especially in the middle and intermediate schools years, a young teen's focus can wander if they are not engaged in structured activities. Afterschool programs can provide this structure as well as be a safe place where teens can build confidence. Studies show that afterschool programs can contribute to higher grades and test scores, better attendance records, lower drop out rates and an increase in positive attitudes and behaviors.<sup>1</sup> After school programs can also have benefits to families including better connection between parents, children and communities, and improved relationships between parents and children.<sup>2</sup>

The Coalition supports a statewide afterschool network targeting middle and intermediate schools. We agree that the Office of Youth Services is the appropriate entity to administer the program. We also would like to see collaboration with the Department of Education, as many afterschool programs take place on public school sites. In addition, we would like to see the afterschool programs and school programs coordinated if possible for positive outcomes for students.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify and for your consideration. Our support of this bill represents a 75% consensus or more of our membership.

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<sup>1</sup> Decker, L. E., et al. (2000). *Engaging families & communities, pathways to educational success*. Boca Raton, FL: National Community Educational Association, Florida Atlantic University.

<sup>2</sup> Harris, E. & Wimer, C. (2004, April). *Engaging with families in out-of-school time learning, No. 4*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard Family Research Project.

## HE'E Member List

Academy 21  
After-School All-Stars Hawaii  
Alliance for Place Based Learning  
\*Castle Complex Community Council  
Center for Civic Education  
Coalition for Children with Special Needs  
\*DOE Windward District  
\*Faith Action for Community Equity  
Fresh Leadership LLC  
Girl Scouts Hawaii  
\*Good Beginnings Alliance  
Harold K.L. Castle Foundation  
\*Hawaii Appleseed Center for Law and  
Economic Justice  
Hawai'i Athletic League of Scholars  
\*Hawai'i Charter School Network  
\*Hawai'i Nutrition and Physical Activity  
Coalition  
\*Hawaii State PTSA  
Hawai'i State Student Council  
Hawai'i State Teachers Association  
Hawai'i P-20  
Hawai'i 3Rs  
Head Start Collaboration Office  
It's All About Kids  
\*INPEACE  
Joint Venture Education Forum  
Junior Achievement of Hawaii  
Kamehameha Schools  
Kanu Hawai'i  
Keiki to Career  
Kupu A'e  
\*Leaders for the Next Generation  
Learning First  
McREL's Pacific Center for Changing the  
Odds  
Our Public School  
\*Pacific Resources for Education and  
Learning  
\*Parents and Children Together  
\*Parents for Public Schools Hawai'i  
Punahou School PUEO Program  
Teach for America  
The Learning Coalition  
US PACOM  
University of Hawai'i College of Education  
YMCA of Honolulu  
\*Voting Member



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Fax: 808-625-5888



Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair  
Honorable Josh Green, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Human Services

Honorable Jill Tokuda, Chair  
Honorable Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Education

**RE: HB 1756 HD1 – Relating to Youth – In Support; Request Amendments**  
March 12, 2014; 1:15 PM; Hawaii State Capitol, Room 414

Aloha Chairs Chun Oakland and Tokuda, Vice Chairs Green and Kidani and members of the committees,

I appreciate this opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of HB 1756 HD1, 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 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  
**LESLIE WILKINS**  
VICE PRESIDENT, MAUI ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BOARD  
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND  
THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

**HOUSE BILL NO. 1756, HD1**  
Relating to Youth After-School Programs – R.E.A.C.H.

March 10, 2014

Dear Chair Tokuda, Chair Chun Oakland and members of the committee:

We would like to offer this testimony in **strong support of HB 1756, HD1**, 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 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, HD1 and respectfully urge the passage of this bill.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Leslie Wilkins  
Vice President  
Maui Economic Development Board





## Moloka'i Middle School

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

Testimony in Support  
HB1756, HD1  
March 12 Hearing

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.



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
WAIAKEA INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL  
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Testimony of  
Lisa Souza, Waiakea Intermediate School Principal  
to the  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES  
and the  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

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

March 10, 2014

Dear Chair Chun Oakland, Chair Tokuda and members of the committee:

I **support** Senate Bill No. (SB) 2441 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 intermediate schools.

I am the Principal at Waiakea Intermediate School, which is fortunate to have one of the five REACH pilot programs in the state. The middle school years can be a very difficult time for children, and students can benefit greatly from guidance in the hours after school. Our REACH program accepts all students who apply. We currently have more than 20% of our student body enrolled in the program and continue to receive applications on a weekly basis. Students are able to see that there are many alternatives to at-risk behavior after school. They are able to get daily homework help and receive instruction in values once a week. In addition, our students are able to experience the following clubs after school: baking, cooking, crafts, fitness, gardening, recycling, science, girls' sex education, boys' sex education, Hawaiian language and culture, Japanese language and culture, performing arts, movie making, school newspaper, life skills, and astronomy.

Our feeder elementary schools have A+ programs to occupy students after school. The high school has numerous and varied after school clubs, athletics and other activities, and students are old enough to hold after school jobs. The intermediate school students have no general after school program, and they need a structured program like REACH. Currently, we receive partial funding from the UPLINK program, but these funds alone are not adequate to support our after school program. Also, the UPLINK funding is available on a year-to-year basis, and, as every school year draws to a close, we do not have the security of knowing that it will be funded for the next school year. We need the certainty of REACH funding to keep and expand this valuable program for our intermediate school children.

This bill addresses a critical need for Hawaii's intermediate school students. I *strongly support* it and respectfully urge the passage of this bill.

Thank you for your consideration

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lisa Souza".

Lisa Souza  
Principal, Waiakea Intermediate School



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TESTIMONY OF  
Mason Morimoto , Student  
Waiakea Intermediate School  
TO THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES  
AND THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

**HOUSE BILL NO. 1756, HD1**  
Relating to Youth After-School Programs – R.E.A.C.H.

March 10, 2014

Dear Chair Chun Oakland, Chair Tokuda and members of the committee:

My name is Mason Morimoto and I go to Waiakea Intermediate School. I am in the eighth grade and attend the REACH afterschool program.

The REACH program makes me feel good about myself. One of the ways that the program has improved my life is by making me a better student. I now have no missing assignments because my tutors are always checking and helping me with my homework. When I complete my assignments, I feel good about it.

When I need any help, my tutors encourage me and tell me that they are proud of me. My tutors praise my good behavior and it makes me want to continue to do good things.

Another thing that being part of the REACH program has helped me with is learning to control my temper. My tutors are always helping me and checking in with me to see if I am doing okay. They often remind me to breathe and calm down when I become angry.

The REACH staff is great because they are caring, honest, and encouraging; they make me feel wanted.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

*Mason Morimoto*

Mason Morimoto  
Student  
Waiakea Intermediate School



STATE OF HAWAII  
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TESTIMONY OF  
Micah Chinen, Student  
Waiakea Intermediate School  
TO THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES  
AND THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

**HOUSE BILL NO. 1756, HD1**  
Relating to Youth After-School Programs – R.E.A.C.H.

March 10, 2014

Dear Chair Chun Oakland, Chair Tokuda and members of the committee:

Hi, my name is Micah Chinen. I am an eighth grader at Waiakea Intermediate School and participate in the REACH afterschool program. This program has had a big impact on me, changing me from a little, shy guy to a confident young man. For me, REACH is something I am very thankful for because of what it has done for me.

Being part of an afterschool program has honestly changed me and helped me. It has helped me with my homework, which I had a hard time with. If it were not for the help of my tutors, I would have probably failed my GT math class. The program has also helped me socialize with new people and helped me make great new friends that I didn't know before.

The program staff supports and encourages their students. They have helped me build my self-esteem. They never give up on us, and they want all of their students to succeed. The staff often gives of their own time off just to help me with my studies when they have other work to do. This really means a lot to me.

The program also teaches us about values to help build our character and confidence. These classes have changed who I am. It helps me feel more confident about myself.

In conclusion, REACH is very beneficial to me. I think many people should join afterschool programs because it can make a big impact on their lives. Being part of an afterschool program is one of the best things that have ever happened to me.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Micah Chinen". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Micah Chinen  
Student  
Waiakea Intermediate School





**STATE OF HAWAII**  
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**WAIAKEA INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL**  
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TESTIMONY OF  
Kimberly Santiago, Student  
Waiakea Intermediate School  
TO THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES  
AND THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

**HOUSE BILL NO. 1765, HD1**  
Relating to Youth After-School Programs – R.E.A.C.H.

March 10, 2014

Dear Chair Chun Oakland, Chair Tokuda and members of the committee:

Hi, my name is Kimberly Santiago. I am in eighth grade, and I go to Waiakea Intermediate School.

After school I go to a program called REACH. My afterschool program to me is one of the best things I ever signed up for. At the program I'm more focused and I get most or all of my homework done. I remember being at home and it took me one hour to do one math problem. In the afterschool program it took me 45 minutes to complete all of my homework.

Also, in the program I don't feel like a nobody. Everybody in the program is kind, nice, and cares for me. They would make sure that I'm happy and they help me with my problems, even the ones that don't have to do with school.

Before joining the after school program, I was shy, and I didn't like to do my homework. Now, I do my homework, like how I would breathe. It would be simple and not hard, and I wouldn't procrastinate as much as I would back in sixth grade.

Also, in school, I didn't really have faith in myself and was not proud to be who I was, and the after school program helped me to realize that, I am who I am. I have potential waiting to be discovered, and that I can be anything if I set my mind to it. The staff would help me reach my goals. They also encouraged me to make friends, because at first I wouldn't talk to anyone. And if there was a wish, I wish that I could stay in this program with all of my friends and be happy.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kimberly Santiago". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Kimberly Santiago  
Student  
Waiakea Intermediate School



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TESTIMONY OF  
Maria dePillis-Shintaku, Student  
Waiakea Intermediate School  
TO THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES  
AND THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

**HOUSE BILL NO. 1756, HD1**  
Relating to Youth After-School Programs – R.E.A.C.H.

March 10, 2014

Dear Chair Chun Oakland, Chair Tokuda and members of the committee:

There was once a girl who attended Waiakea Intermediate School. She was shy, quiet, and not confident in herself at all. She rarely raised her hand in class, and when she did, her answers were barely whispers. She struggled with her homework sometimes, but she was too scared to ask for help. Then that girl entered an after-school program. It was one of the best things that ever happened to her. She felt comfortable, she made new friends, she felt so much more confident in herself, and she wasn't afraid to ask for help when she needed it. That girl was me, Maria dePillis-Shintaku.

In REACH, I've needed help many times and for multiple different things. The thing that I've needed help the most with is my math. Math has never been my best subject, and certainly not my favorite. Since I've been working my way through Algebra, it's been even more difficult as of late. However, the tutors have been such an enormous help to me, I can't really even put it into words. They will always help me, sit with me, and try to walk me through it. My tutors make me feel as if they *want* to help me, they *want* to help me succeed. They have been willing to give up their time in order to help me through my studies. Without this program, it is possible that I would have failed math. When I work with my tutors, I could feel myself working because I *wanted* to, because I *wanted* to improve, not because I was required.

The after school program has taught me so many things that will end up being useful to me later in life. The program has especially helped me with my procrastination. I used to be a big procrastinator – I would wait until the last two days to do a project that I had a month to do, but in our program, they have none of that. They check your planner daily, and if you don't write

down your homework, *they will know*. Our tutors also tell their students that it does not matter if it's due tomorrow or next week or in a month – we should start working on it as early as possible. This helped me so much because now, I'm not waiting until the last minute. My projects are now not rushed or half-hearted or sloppy; they are well done and I put my full effort into my work.

Tutors also teach us values; helping to build our character, confidence, and competence. In these lessons, I have learned so much, especially when dealing with my self-confidence. They have taught me that I shouldn't be ashamed of myself, that I can do what I put my mind to. It has taught me that I can stand up and be myself.

One of the clubs that I attend in our program is Girls' Club. In this club, they tackle the tough topics like relationships and sex. Another tough subject that they tackle is body image. Body image has always been a problem for me. I have constantly felt like I was overweight or pudgy, unfit or ugly. I would often cry, and I hated the way I looked in a mirror. I'd dress up pretty to feel better, but it never really helped. But being part of the Girls' Club did. In Girls' Club everything was open and I learned so much. For the first time, when someone told me "You're beautiful the way you are," I believed it.

This program has helped me so much. I'm so thankful I entered this program and when I leave, I know that I will miss it so much. As each day in the eighth grade ticks on, and as I smile every time I see my tutors and friends, there's always one thought in the back of my head – *I don't want to go*. I don't want to leave this program, with its fun clubs, friends I've made, or my amazing, caring tutors. But I know that I'll have to move on without them, and I know I'll survive because of everything I've learned in the REACH program and because of experiences I want to relive over and over again. I hope other kids that come into this program will have as good an experience as I have had.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Maria dePillis-Shintaku". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underlining the name.

Maria dePillis-Shintaku  
Student  
Waiakea Intermediate School



TESTIMONY OF  
Michael K. Harano  
Principal, Washington Middle School

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES  
AND THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

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

March 12, 2014

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in *strong support* of House Bill No. 1756, HD1. 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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.

This bill addresses a 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

Amanda Kamakea  
2585 Dole St.  
akamakea@hawaii.edu

2/24/2014

To: Senator Tokuda, Chairperson  
Senator Chun Oakland, Chairperson  
And members of the Senate Committee

From: Amanda Kamakea, Student, Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work

RE: HB 1756 HD1, Relating to Youth – SUPPORT

Chair, Vice-Chair, and members of the Senate Committee, I am testifying in **support** of HB 1756 HD1

I am Amanda Kamakea, and I am a student at the University of Hawaii Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work.

As a former student of the Hawaii public education system, I see great value in providing afterschool programs for students in Intermediate/middle School. Often, my classmates and I would meander around town, or go home to sit in front of the TV for hours on end. Had programs similar to REACH been available to us in middle/intermediate school, we would have readily participated.

After school programs are central to the reduction and prevention of crime and violence among youth, as well as the possibility of lowering obesity levels by incorporating physical activity into the afterschool programs.

Additional funding and management through the Office of Youth Services would allow the REACH program to establish and expand throughout the state of Hawaii, therefore benefiting its student participants and their families. Further, standardization would aid in the selection and monitoring process of participating programs and ensure the goals of the program are being fulfilled.

I urge your **support** in the investment of our youth. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Amanda Kamakea

TO: Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair ; Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair ; Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair ; Senator Josh Green, Vice Chair; Senator Mike Gabbard; Senator Russell E. Ruderman; Senator Sam Slom; Senator Brian T. Taniguchi

RE: HB 1756, HD1: Relating to youth - **SUPPORT**

Date: March 12, 2014

Time: 1:15 PM

Place: Conference Room 414

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

From: Camille Cristobal

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify in support for HB 1756, HD1. My name is Camille Cristobal, and I am an undergraduate Social Work student at the University of Hawaii – Manoa. I am testifying in strong favor of SB 2441, SD2. This bill will establish the R.E.A.C.H (Resources for enrichment, athletics, culture and health) program in the office of Youth Services to provide a standardized framework and funding for afterschool programs in public middle/intermediate school.

I support this bill for the following reasons:

- Prevention tool against juvenile violence that occur when students are unsupervised after school.
- Leads to improved school attendance, better behavior and better academic performance.
- Students engaging in positive after – school activities will help them stay on the path towards graduation and success.

I understand the importance of having a free afterschool program because during my middle school years and throughout high school I was fortunate enough to attend a free after school program through Leeward YMCA. Looking back at my amazing experience in the program I was exposed to various activities that helped build leadership and team building skills. The program allowed me to learn more about myself and exposed me to different opportunities that I never knew was out there for me at the time. Having two full -time working parents, working six days a week, being exposed to various activities and field trips coordinated by the program would not have been possible. Without the program I would have never been able to broaden my learning. Being a part of an after school program helped deter me from juvenile violence and allowed me to set goals for myself.

I believe establishing the R.E.A.C.H program will allow middle school students the same experience I had and help broaden their experiences and learning. After school program during the middle school years are important because I believe it is a transitional period in a child's life where they are exposed to delinquent behavior and peer pressure. Thank you for your time and allowing me to testify in this matter.

Camille Cristobal

**HB1756**

Submitted on: 3/8/2014

Testimony for HMS/EDU on Mar 12, 2014 13:15PM in Conference Room 414

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Ellen Awai	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please support HB1756 HD1 for the funding of the REACH program in the Office of Youth Services. As a parent, a behavioral health advocate, and a student from criminal justice administration, I strongly support this bill. Our youth need to have guidance after school, as well as during school, when their parents may not be available for them. Thank you!



Michael Riley  
[Mdriley@hawaii.edu](mailto:Mdriley@hawaii.edu)

3/10/2014

To: Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair  
Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair  
And members of the Committee

From: Michael Riley

RE: I Support Bill HB1756 Relating to establishing funds for the R.E.A.C.H program.

Dear Chair Tokuda, Chair Chun Oakland, and members of the committee on HB1756 I am testifying today in strong support of bill HB1756 which establishes the R.E.A.C.H Program which stands for Resources for Enrichment, Athletics, Culture, and Health. The R.E.A.C.H program within the office of Youth Services is looking to provide a standardized framework and funding for much needed afterschool programs in public middle/intermediate schools.

My name is Michael Riley and I am a student at the University Of Manoa School Of Social Work. This bill is important to me because I have a strong passion for working with Hawaii's youth and through my current position within the City & County's department of Park & Recreation division I currently work with middle school students and see first-hand the lack of extra-curricular activities offered to them. I am fortunate enough to work with these youth through providing classes such as Cooking, Ceramics, Arts & Crafts, Leadership Skills, and Sports & Games. It is fulfilling to watch and work with these pre-teens and teens as they grow, learn and engage in activities that provide them skills, and basic knowledge, all within a safe environment. It's satisfying to know that these teens enjoy such programs provided at no or minimum cost to them, and seeing them be involved in engaging hands on activities, and sports & games rather than sitting at home alone staring at a computer screen or causing misfits with the wrong crowd. We also engage in community service to give these teens the satisfaction of being able to give back to the community that they live in.

R.E.A.C.H will provide our middle school students with an opportunity to enhance student achievement in terms of academics, athletics, leadership, and provide them with safe supervised after school hour programs that are of interest to them. The skills attained through this program will allow the student to challenge themselves and others, and create unique friendships and support systems.

Studies prove that the middle / Intermediate school years are the most difficult times for our youth and their families. with transitioning from elementary school into middle school. Currently there are thousands of youth in middle/intermediate school left on their own after school, or left on the streets with nowhere to go. This is the time where our youth are most vulnerable and targeted, influenced by drugs, alcohol, crime, and risky behavior, because of the lack of current affordable programs for middle school pre-teens and teens.

Quality after-school programs are the key to helping set a student towards the right path, and continuing to allow them room to grow both academically and socially. This generation is our future, and it is our job to teach, enhance and challenge our youth, through program's such as these that allow them to have a voice, learn, have fun and achieve an all-around better quality of life, that will hopefully then lead them to higher success such as graduating high school, attending college, and finally having that dream job. Addressing this issue, and capturing these students when needed most, will be the push they need for a better future, and life.

I strongly support HB1756 and respectfully ask the committee to pass this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Michael Riley