

# SB 2441

<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>	<p>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.</p>
<b>Companion:</b>	<u><a href="#">HB1756</a></u>
<b>Package:</b>	None
<b>Current Referral:</b>	HMS/EDU, WAM
<b>Introducer(s):</b>	CHUN OAKLAND, KIDANI, TOKUDA, Galuteria, Keith-Agaran, Shimabukuro, Taniguchi



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 THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

**SENATE BILL NO. 2441**  
Relating to Youth After-School Programs

February 5, 2014

Chair Chun Oakland, Chair Tokuda, and members of the committees, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **strong support** of Senate Bill No. (SB) 2441. This measure seeks to establish a program and funding to 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.

SB 2441 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, Kawanānakoā Middle, Mililani Middle, Molokai Middle, and Waiākea 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, we 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. SB 2441 addresses this critical need for Hawaii's middle school students.

The Office of the Lieutenant Governor ***strongly supports*** SB 2441 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:** 02/05/2014

**Committee:** Senate Human Services/Senate  
Education

**Department:** Education

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

**Title of Bill:** SB 2441 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 of Education (Education) supports SB 2441 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 Human Services  
Senate Committee on Education**

Wednesday, February 5, 2014  
1:15 p.m.  
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 404

**Testimony of Keith Amemiya**

**Senate Bill 2441 Relating Youth After-School Programs – R.E.A.C.H**

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

I **strongly support** Senate Bill 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 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.



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

January 30, 2014

TO: The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair  
Senate Committee on Human Services

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

FROM: David Hipp  
Executive Director

**SUBJECT: S.B. 2441 – RELATING TO YOUTH**

Hearing: Wednesday, February 5, 2014; 1:15 p.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 414

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of S.B. 2441, 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 S.B. 2441, 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. In FY '13, there were 1,956 arrests of children ages 12 to 14.

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

The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland  
The Honorable Jill N. Tokuda  
January 30, 2014  
Page 2

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.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.



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

Elynne E. Chung, Principal  
Mililani Middle School

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

**SENATE BILL NO. 2441**  
Relating to Youth After-School Programs – R.E.A.C.H.

February 5, 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 middle and intermediate schools.

I am the Principal at Mililani Middle School and this bill is important to me because as a pilot school for the R.E.A.C.H. project, we are currently initiating our program during the fourth quarter of this school year, thanks to the support from the legislature and the Lieutenant Governor's Office. We at Mililani Middle School strongly support (SB) 2441 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. (SB) 2441 addresses this critical need for such programs.

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.

Sincerely,

Elynne E. Chung, Principal  
Mililani Middle School  
95-1140 Lehiwa Drive  
Mililani, Hawaii 96789  
Ph: 808-627-9000



## Moloka'i Middle School

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

TESTIMONY OF  
Gary Davidson, Principal  
Molokai Middle School  
TO THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES  
AND THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

**SENATE BILL NO. 2441**  
Relating to Youth After-School Programs—R.E.A.C.H.

February 5, 2014

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

**I strongly 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 public middle and intermediate schools throughout the state.

I am the principal at Molokai Middle School and this bill is important to me 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 R.E.A.C.H. funding would ensure our nets are finer, catch more students, and provide safety for students that otherwise might fail to reach their potential. Through extraordinary effort, Molokai Middle School students achieve 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 would provide 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.

SB 2441 addresses the critical need for such programs. We **strongly support** it and respectfully urge the passage of this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

With Best Regards,

Gary Davidson, Principal  
Molokai Middle School  
One Canoe, Many Paddles





STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
WAIAKEA INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL  
200 WEST PUAINAKO STREET  
HILO, HAWAII 98720-3199  
PHONE: (808) 981-7231 FAX: (808) 981-7237

TESTIMONY of  
Lisa Souza, Waiakea Intermediate School Principal  
to the  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES  
and the  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

SENATE BILL NO. 2441  
Relating to Youth After-School Programs - R.E.A.C.H.

February 5, 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.



**HANA HIGH AND ELEMENTARY**

P.O. BOX 128  
HANA, HAWAII 96713  
808-248-4836

TESTIMONY OF  
Richard Young, Vice Principal  
Hana High and Elementary School  
TO THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES  
AND THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

**SENATE BILL NO. 2441**

Relating to Youth After-School Programs – R.E.A.C.H.

February 5, 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 middle and intermediate schools.

Aloha, I am the current Vice Principal and former Athletic Director for Hana High and Elementary School. This bill is important to me because it provides opportunities for our middle school aged youth to be exposed to athletics and other clubs while it includes a necessary tutoring component. Forming good study habits and learning what it takes to be a student athlete at the Middle School level allows this age group the opportunity to develop the necessary skills they need as they approach High School and beyond. As we know, being College and Career ready starts in the primary grades and extends through graduation. A program like R.E.A.C.H. provides necessary skills and experiences, students need while they are in middle school.

In Hana we were fortunate to have previously received grant funding to purchase 6 small 14 passenger buses to provide transportation home for our students who attended our after school tutoring program. Being in such an isolated area we have had to face challenges that other schools may not be able to relate to. Many of our students travel over one hour by bus to get home after tutoring, math club or athletics. Without adequate funding it is difficult to maintain a daily program at the levels we would like. Additionally, grant funds has allow us the ability to expand our program. There has never been funding to support a program for middle schools before. This is something good and necessary.

We in Hana, have offered make shift programs carried out by dedicated volunteers and supported by our local youth center and county parks and recreation. After school programs have been a way for our school to keep Hana youth away from negative behaviors as well as to provide extra assistance in the classroom. It would be nice to someday see a formalized athletics or arts program for Hana as well as all public middle schools in the State.

In closing, 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

Richard Young, Vice Principal  
Hana High and Elementary School





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

**SENATE BILL NO. 2441**  
Relating to Youth After-School Programs

January 28, 2014

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

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **strong support** of Senate Bill No. 2441.

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 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 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 21<sup>st</sup> century and a globally competitive job market.

We **strongly support** SB 2441 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](http://www.reachouthawaii.org)



492-0561

200 Akamainui Street  
Mililani, Hawaii 96789-3999  
Tel: 808-625-2100  
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Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair  
Senate Committee on Human Services

Honorable Jill Tokuda, Chair  
Senate Committee on Education

**RE: SB 2441 – Relating to Youth – In Support**  
February 5, 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 SB 2441, 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 SB 2441. Thank you.

Bob Barlow  
President

# MICAH A. KĀNE

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

## TESTIMONY OF

MICAH A. KĀNE

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

#### **SENATE BILL NO. 2441**

Relating to Youth After-School Programs – R.E.A.C.H.

February 5, 2014

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

I **strongly 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 middle and intermediate schools.

In addition to being the Chief Operating Officer 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, 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.

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.

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## MICAH A. KĀNE

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

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.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ma', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Micah A. Kāne  
Chief Operating Officer  
Pacific Links Hawai'i





ISLAND INSURANCE  
COMPANIES

TESTIMONY OF  
TYLER TOKIOKA  
TO THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES  
AND THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

**SENATE BILL NO. 2441**  
Relating to Youth After-School Programs – R.E.A.C.H.

February 5, 2014

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

I **strongly 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 middle and intermediate schools.

I currently serve as a member of the R.E.A.C.H. Advisory Board and have been a supporter of education and youth sports activities for a number of years. Island Insurance Company is a community-minded entity that has supported youth related programs with funding across the state through our charitable foundation. I joined R.E.A.C.H. because it aligns well the core mission of what we value as a local company in Hawaii.

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

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

Sincerely,

Tyler Tokioka  
Vice President, External Affairs  
Island Insurance Companies  
P.O. Box 1520  
Honolulu, HI 96806-1520  
Ph 808.564.8454

# HAWAII YOUTH SERVICES NETWORK

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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

January 29, 2014

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

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

## **TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2441 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.

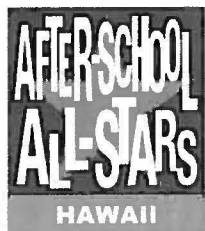
Hawaii has the highest percentage of households in the United States in which all adults are employed. These working families need after school programs to ensure that children are safe and engaged in productive activities.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Judith F. Clark, MPH



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

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES  
AND THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION  
February 5, 2014 at 1:15 p.m.

**SENATE BILL NO. 2441**  
Relating to Youth After-School Programs – R.E.A.C.H.

Aloha 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 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.

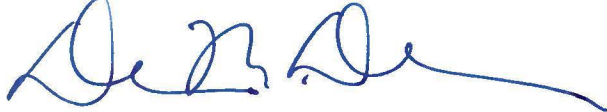
We've found that there aren't many alternatives for Hawaii's youth, when it comes to after-school programming in the middle schools. It pains me when a single working mother calls to ask if we have programs running at Moanalua Middle School because her daughter is transitioning from elementary to sixth 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* SB 2441 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 'D. Dunbar', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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





TESTIMONY OF  
**LESLIE WILKINS**  
VICE PRESIDENT, MAUI ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BOARD  
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES  
AND SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

**SENATE BILL NO. 2441**  
Relating to Youth After-School Programs – R.E.A.C.H.

February 5, 2014

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

We would like to offer this testimony in **strong support of SB 2441**, 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** SB 2441 and respectfully urge the passage of this bill.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Leslie Wilkins  
Vice President  
Maui Economic Development Board



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

February 5, 2014

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

This testimony is submitted in support for SB2441, 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.

Sincerely,

Cheri Nakamura  
HE'E Coalition Director

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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.



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

TESTIMONY OF  
Travis Afuso, Student  
Mililani Middle School  
TO THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES  
AND THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

**SENATE BILL NO. 2441**  
Relating to Youth After-School Programs – R.E.A.C.H.

February 5, 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 middle and intermediate schools.

I am Travis Afuso, an 8<sup>th</sup> grade student at Mililani Middle School. A pilot project for R.E.A.C.H. was initiated during this semester thanks to the support from the Lieutenant Governor's Office. My school was one of the schools selected to participate in the pilot project. A couple of weeks ago, we held an assembly at our school when the Lieutenant Governor presented the school with a mock check for this pilot project. At this time, I also want to recognize and thank Senator Michelle Kidani for being a part of our fantastic assembly and for her strong support of Mililani Middle School.

I am testifying today because I strongly support Senate Bill 2441. I believe these after school programs enhance the overall academic and social growth for students like me.

I have had the opportunity to participate in some of our afterschool programs and have found them to be both fun and valuable learning experiences. This year, I have been part of a First Tech Challenge robotics team that participated in the First Tech Challenge Championships. This program gave me the opportunity to take part in an activity in which I had no prior experience. I learned a lot in an environment that was safe, open and welcoming to all students, regardless of experience levels. It opened doors to possible future study.

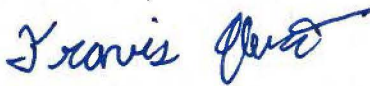
I also have been in the Chess Club, Geography Club and Science Olympiad. These are activities that I enjoy and in which I have some background. Making new friends and being challenged by new ideas has made participation in these clubs something I look forward to. All of these afterschool programs provide all students with the opportunity to interact socially with peers and program mentors in a structured, but informal, environment. They keep us engaged in enriching and productive activities afterschool and on weekends.

Mililani Middle School offers students many High Interest Programs and clubs. Programs include athletics, the arts, science and technology, math and many other service and interest-based clubs. These clubs and programs play an important role in helping us discover more about ourselves and go beyond the school curriculum to expand our horizons and challenge our minds and bodies. More importantly, we are free to explore new things without worrying about tests or grades. That has helped to build my confidence and expand my knowledge base. I've had the opportunity to strengthen both team building and leadership skills. Participating in these programs is fun and has helped make my middle school experience one I will never forget.

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 and the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Travis Afuso  
Mililani Middle School  
95-1140 Lehiwa Drive  
Mililani, HI 96789





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

TESTIMONY OF  
Landon Griff, Student  
Mililani Middle School  
TO THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES  
AND THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

**SENATE BILL NO. 2441**  
Relating to Youth After-School Programs – R.E.A.C.H.

February 5, 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 middle and intermediate schools.

I am Landon Griff, an 8<sup>th</sup> grader at Mililani Middle School. A pilot project for R.E.A.C.H. was initiated during this semester thanks to the support from the Lieutenant Governor's Office. My school was one of the schools selected to participate in the pilot project. I strongly support Senate Bill 2441 because I believe these after school programs enhance the overall academic and social growth for students like me.

I am a student athlete and have participated in the basketball afterschool program for the past 3 years. Being on the school team has taught me a lot in terms of taking care of myself. For example, I learned that I must have good attendance, good grades and good behavior in order to practice, play and participate in the middle school games on the weekends. Being able to play on the basketball team has kept me on my toes in completing all of my homework and classwork, more importantly being on top of my behavior in and out of class. It is always on my mind that if I don't do these things, I may get suspended and not get to participate.

A great thing that has happened to me recently, is that I have just been offered a basketball scholarship to Maryknoll School. Being active afterschool and participating in basketball has kept me focused, at the same time, gave me the opportunity to better my skills in the game.

If I didn't have the opportunity to participate in this afterschool sport, I would be home alone afterschool, as my mom would be working. I imagine that I would be on social media, maybe even hanging out with the wrong crowd or people I shouldn't be hanging out with. By being on top of my attendance, grades and behavior, it allows me to attend practices and play in the games on the weekends. I feel that I am setting an example for others. The coaches have also been mentors for me in that they are always encouraging me to do my best not only on the court, but more importantly, in class, reminding me to complete all my work and being a role model.

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

Sincerely,



Landon Griff, Student  
Mililani Middle School  
95-1140 Lehiwa Drive  
Mililani, HI 96789



## Moloka'i Middle School

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

TESTIMONY OF  
Gary Davidson, Principal  
Molokai Middle School  
TO THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES  
AND THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

**SENATE BILL NO. 2441**  
Relating to Youth After-School Programs—R.E.A.C.H.

February 5, 2014

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

I **strongly 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 public middle and intermediate schools throughout the state.

I am a student at Molokai Middle School and this bill is important to me because the R.E.A.C.H. program would help students with their school work. It would also give students that just hang out on the streets something meaningful to do. Some of my friends wanted to play basketball but couldn't go to the basketball in town because of homework. If we were to have this then they would have a place for homework *and* sports. Also students who play a musical instrument do better in math and have better coordination, so after-school classes that support the Arts are important. R.E.A.C.H. classes can also teach you good life-skills and respect. It gives good role models to students who don't have that mom or dad at home to do that for them. It gives them a place of support.

SB 2441 addresses the critical need for such programs. I **strongly support** it and respectfully urge the passage of this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

With Best Regards,

*Payton Kaalekahi*

Payton Kaalekahi, Student  
Molokai Middle School



LINDSAY BALL  
COMPLEX AREA SUPERINTENDENT

## Moloka'i Middle School

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

GARY DAVIDSON  
PRINCIPAL

TESTIMONY OF  
Gary Davidson, Principal  
Molokai Middle School  
TO THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES  
AND THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

**SENATE BILL NO. 2441**  
Relating to Youth After-School Programs—R.E.A.C.H.

February 5, 2014

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

I **strongly 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 public middle and intermediate schools throughout the state.

This bill is very important for this school and this island, because Molokai is an island that is vulnerable. Some of our young people are drifting. This R.E.A.C.H. bill could be a beacon of light to make a change that could produce better minds and critical thinkers. The classes provided by the R.E.A.C.H. funding help students learn what to do in difficult situations and think about how that situation affects them, the people around them, and their future. They also help students understand there is more than Molokai out there, a world of opportunity that was not possible before.

SB 2441 addresses the critical need for such programs. I **strongly support** it and respectfully urge the passage of this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

With Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kaydence Oswald-Kalawe".

Kaydence Oswald-Kalawe, Student  
Molokai Middle School





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 OF

Kimberly Santiago, Student

Waiakea Intermediate School

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

SENATE BILL NO. 2441  
Relating to Youth After-School Programs – R.E.A.C.H.

February 5, 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 the afterschool 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 afterschool 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 afterschool 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



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
WAIAKEA INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL  
200 WEST PUAINAKO STREET  
HILO, HAWAII 96720-3199  
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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

SENATE BILL NO. 2441  
Relating to Youth After-School Programs – R.E.A.C.H.

February 5, 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 afterschool 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 my afterschool program, 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.

My afterschool 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 afterschool 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.

The afterschool 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 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 afterschool 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,



Maria dePillis-Shintaku  
Student  
Waiakea Intermediate School



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
WAIAKEA INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL  
200 WEST PUAINAKO STREET  
HILO, HAWAII 96720-3199  
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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

SENATE BILL NO. 2441  
Relating to Youth After-School Programs – R.E.A.C.H.

February 5, 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.

My afterschool 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 afterschool 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  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
WAIAKEA INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL  
200 WEST PUAINAKO STREET  
HILO, HAWAII 96720-3199  
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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

SENATE BILL NO. 2441  
Relating to Youth After-School Programs – R.E.A.C.H.

February 5, 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. My afterschool program has had a big impact on me, changing me from a little, shy guy to a confident young man in three years. For me, the program 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 afterschool 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



**HANA HIGH AND ELEMENTARY**

P.O. BOX 128  
HANA, HAWAII 96713  
808-248-4836

TESTIMONY OF  
Tiare Lono  
Hana High and Elementary School  
TO THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES  
AND THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

**SENATE BILL NO. 2441**  
Relating to Youth After-School Programs – R.E.A.C.H.

February 5, 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 middle and intermediate schools.

I am a student at Hana High and Elementary School and this bill is important to me because...

After school tutoring is important because students get a chance to get the help they need with homework assignments that are difficult. This after school program is very helpful for both the students and the teachers. Teachers get a chance to see at what pace their students are at, the students can ask questions and immediately receive an answer. Every student that needs this welfare should participate because, all students will have a bus to transport them home. This program is great, it will improve grades and the student will thoroughly understand their given tasks and become successful learners.

I **strongly support** it and respectfully urge the passage of this bill.

Thank you for your consideration

Sincerely,

Tiare Lono  
Hana High and Elementary





**HANA HIGH AND ELEMENTARY**  
P.O. BOX 128  
HANA, HAWAII 96713  
808-248-4815

TESTIMONY OF  
Kiai Park  
Hana High and Elementary School  
TO THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES  
AND THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

**SENATE BILL NO. 2441**  
Relating to Youth After-School Programs – R.E.A.C.H.

February 5, 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 middle and intermediate schools.

I am a student at Hana High and Elementary School and this bill is important to me because...

After school athletics are very important to us as students of Hana. I say this because these type of activities make us keep our grades at a level where we are eligible to play sports, it also makes us push ourselves to our goal where our GPA can be above normal for 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades.

Another important thing is that we now have buses, meaning that kids that did not have a ride home may now participate in sports and have transportation to their homes.

Lastly I would say that these kind of activities help us as intermediate students because, say when we reach high school, we can decide what sports we want to play and get known to the community of Hana and show what we have as athletic people.

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

Sincerely,

Kiai Park  
Hana High and Elementary School

**SB2441**

Submitted on: 2/3/2014

Testimony for HMS/EDU on Feb 5, 2014 13:15PM in Conference Room 414

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kalani Kaanaana	Individual	Support	No

Comments: As a high school athletics coach I support the intent of the measure fully. I hope you will as well. There is a huge need for after school activities for the the adolescent aged students. Please support this measure.