
A BILL FOR AN ACT

MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS FOR PUBLIC
MIDDLE AND INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL STUDENTS.

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

1 SECTION 1. Established in 1990 by the department of
2 education, the State's after-school plus (A+) program provides
3 after-school care, including enrichment activities and
4 supervised recreational activities, until 5:30 p.m. on each
5 school day at more than one hundred ninety participating
6 schools. The program is supported by \$6,000,000 in general
7 funds, and the current agreement provides for a payment of \$85
8 per month for each eligible child. Elementary-school-aged
9 children whose parents work, attend school, or are in job-
10 training programs are eligible to participate.

11 However, none of this funding is available to the
12 department of education's middle and intermediate schools to run
13 structured after-school programs. According to the Afterschool
14 Alliance, each afternoon across the United States, fifteen
15 million children are alone and unsupervised after school.
16 Countless parents have indicated that they would enroll their



1 children in an after-school program, if one were available. Of
2 Hawaii's fifty-five middle and intermediate schools, forty-two
3 are designated as Title I, meaning that forty per cent or more
4 of the student population qualify for free or reduced-price
5 lunches.

6 The legislature finds that high-quality after-school
7 programs targeted toward Hawaii's public middle and intermediate
8 school students would generate significant returns on investment
9 for society as a whole. It costs \$12,000 per student for a six-
10 hour day in school and approximately \$1,000 for three hours in
11 an after-school program. Positive returns would also be
12 realized with respect to the prevention of teen pregnancies,
13 drug abuse, and juvenile crime and delinquency. High-quality
14 after-school programs would help prevent Hawaii's youth from
15 heading down the wrong path.

16 The after-school hours are a critical period of time. The
17 hours between 3:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. are the peak hours for
18 juvenile crime and delinquency as well as experimentation with
19 alcohol, tobacco, illegal drugs, and sex. Without adult
20 supervision, this is the period of time when youth violence,



1 drug use, and other delinquent behaviors are most likely to
2 occur.

3 Students in middle and intermediate school constitute an
4 age group historically underserved by after-school program
5 providers. In Hawaii, there are many programs for elementary
6 school students in the form of structured day care, such as the
7 A+ program. On the other hand, high schools offer numerous
8 clubs, teams, and extra-curricular activities for students.
9 However, middle and intermediate school students are often left
10 with few safe and structured opportunities between 3:00 p.m. and
11 6:00 p.m.

12 At a time when middle- and low-income families and
13 communities are struggling financially and children are falling
14 behind academically, after-school programs are needed more than
15 ever. A powerful convergence of factors--including a lack of
16 federal, state and local funding, and families and communities
17 working with tight budgets--leaves 68,665 of Hawaii's school-
18 aged children alone and unsupervised after the school day ends.
19 After-school programs not only keep students safe but they also
20 provide students with productive, enjoyable, and innovative
21 enrichment and health and fitness activities.



H.B. NO. 1621

1 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds to provide
2 after-school programs in Hawaii's public middle and intermediate
3 schools with high-quality, structured after-school supervision
4 for students enrolled in grade six to grade eight.

5 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
6 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
7 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2016-2017 for the
8 establishment of after-school programs for public middle and
9 intermediate school students.

10 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
11 education for the purposes of this Act.

12 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2016.

13

INTRODUCED BY: *Bral*

 Jalinda Bern

JAN 19 2016



H.B. NO. 1621

Report Title:

After-school Programs for Public Middle and Intermediate School Students

Description:

Appropriates funds for the establishment of after-school programs for public middle and intermediate school students.

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