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## A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that in Hawaii, over  
2 fifty-four thousand children are left alone and unsupervised  
3 until their parents return home from work each day. Yet  
4 according to the Afterschool Alliance, 75 per cent of Hawaii  
5 parents agree that afterschool programs can reduce the  
6 likelihood that youth will engage in risky behavior and 93 per  
7 cent support public funding of afterschool programs. The  
8 legislature further finds that while Hawaii continues to be  
9 among the states with high participation rates, that rate has  
10 been declining from 35 per cent in 2004, to 28 per cent in 2009,  
11 to 26 per cent in 2014. Juvenile violence peaks in the  
12 afterschool hours on school days and in the evenings on non-  
13 school days. 63 per cent of violent crimes committed by  
14 juveniles occur on school days, while nearly one-fifth of all  
15 juvenile violent crimes occur between the hours of three and  
16 seven o'clock in the evening. During fiscal year 2013, the



1 police made over three thousand arrests of juveniles in Hawaii  
2 between the ages of twelve and fourteen.

3       The legislature finds that afterschool programming  
4 represents an upfront investment in Hawaii's youth and that  
5 states with higher participation rates may be due to significant  
6 state funding dedicated specifically to expanding the  
7 availability of afterschool programs. According to the  
8 department of education's 2013 superintendent's 24th annual  
9 report, Hawaii's dropout rate has reached 15 per cent with a  
10 graduation rate of only around 82 per cent. Nearly half of the  
11 high school drop outs reported that they started high school  
12 ill-prepared. Research indicates that each disconnected youth  
13 costs the taxpayers nearly \$14,000 per year, which can continue  
14 and even increase in the future as some disenfranchised youth  
15 become part of the juvenile justice court systems. The stakes  
16 of disengagement are high. Once students are disconnected,  
17 recruitment, enrollment, and retention into programs require  
18 stronger and more persistent outreach, more intensive services,  
19 and more long-term participation.

20       The legislature further finds that middle and intermediate  
21 school years are a pivotal time for our haumana, or students--a



1 time when they can succumb to peer pressure and significantly  
2 derail their education and futures. Accordingly, participation  
3 in high-quality afterschool programs can lead to improved  
4 attendance, better behavior, and better academic performance.  
5 Keeping our youth engaged in positive afterschool activities  
6 will help to keep them on the path toward graduation and  
7 productive futures. Currently, there are approximately thirty-  
8 nine thousand middle and intermediate public school students in  
9 Hawaii. Approximately half of the fifty-six middle and  
10 intermediate schools receive some federal or state funding for  
11 afterschool programming; however, this funding is inconsistent  
12 or unreliable.

13 The legislature finds that in March 2013, the  
14 administration, through the lieutenant governor, established the  
15 R.E.A.C.H. initiative, which stands for "resources for  
16 enrichment, athletics, culture, and health" to develop a  
17 framework and funding base for afterschool programs for public  
18 middle and intermediate school students throughout the State.  
19 The legislature further finds that the establishment of a state-  
20 subsidized afterschool program for middle and intermediate



1 public school students is important to the future of Hawaii's  
2 'opio and the welfare of our State as a whole.

3       The legislature further finds that since its inception, the  
4 R.E.A.C.H. initiative has provided over \$700,000 in funding for  
5 afterschool programs at nine schools during the 2013-2014 school  
6 year, as well as eleven schools during the 2014-2015 school year  
7 throughout all counties in the State. The legislature finds  
8 that this funding has been instrumental during the vulnerable  
9 middle school years and has manifested positive impacts on the  
10 lives of these students inside and outside of the classroom.  
11 The legislature finds, however, that a dedicated program with  
12 reliable funding is necessary to provide continued and  
13 uninterrupted services in middle and intermediate schools  
14 statewide.

15       The legislature further finds that the office of youth  
16 services, within the department of human services, provides  
17 comprehensive front end services and programs for youth to  
18 prevent delinquency and reduce the incidence of recidivism. The  
19 office is dedicated to creating opportunities for youth to  
20 develop competencies that foster resiliency and enable them to  
21 achieve a successful transition to young adulthood. The



1 legislature determines that the objectives of the R.E.A.C.H.  
2 initiative are wholly aligned with those of the office of youth  
3 services and, accordingly, provided funding during fiscal year  
4 2014-2015 to the office of youth services for the R.E.A.C.H.  
5 program.

6 The purpose of this Act is to provide a standardized  
7 framework and funding for afterschool programs in public middle  
8 and intermediate schools. Specifically, this Act:

- 9 (1) Establishes the R.E.A.C.H. program within the office  
10 of youth services; and  
11 (2) Establishes a revolving fund to receive fees and other  
12 moneys to supplement the costs of administering and  
13 operating the program.

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

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



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

9           (b) The office shall:

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

17           (c) The office may establish participation fees or other  
18 charges to be assessed to each student for the cost of  
19 administering and operating the R.E.A.C.H. program. The  
20 revenues from those fees shall be deposited into the R.E.A.C.H.



1 program revolving fund to be used to supplement the costs of  
2 administering and operating the program.

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

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

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

11 (2) Legislative appropriations;

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

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

16 (c) All moneys in the R.E.A.C.H. program revolving fund  
17 shall be used to supplement the costs of administering and  
18 operating the R.E.A.C.H. program. The office may also use the  
19 moneys to:

20 (1) Hire personnel to implement, operate, and oversee  
21 afterschool programs;



- 1        (2) Promote afterschool program activities;
- 2        (3) Conduct afterschool education and demonstration
- 3                projects;
- 4        (4) Contract for services for afterschool programs; and
- 5        (5) Fund associated expenses for afterschool programs."

6        SECTION 3. Section 352D-3, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
 7 amended by adding a new definition to be appropriately inserted  
 8 and to read as follows:

9                "R.E.A.C.H. program" means the resources for enrichment,  
 10 athletics, culture, and health program established pursuant to  
 11 section 352D-A."

12        SECTION 4. In codifying the new sections added by section  
 13 2 of this Act, the revisor of statutes shall substitute  
 14 appropriate section numbers for the letters used in designating  
 15 the new sections in this Act.

16        SECTION 5. New statutory material is underscored.

17        SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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INTRODUCED BY:

*John W. Waihele*  
*Guthrie Yvelin*  
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# H.B. NO. 397

**Report Title:**

Afterschool Programs; Resources for Enrichment, Athletics, Culture, and Health Program; R.E.A.C.H.; Revolving Fund

**Description:**

Establishes 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 schools. Establishes a revolving fund to receive fees and other moneys to supplement the costs of administering and operating the program.

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

