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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, seventy-five per cent of  
5 Hawaii parents agree that afterschool programs can reduce the  
6 likelihood that youth will engage in risky behavior and ninety-  
7 three per cent support public funding of afterschool programs.  
8 The legislature further finds that while Hawaii continues to be  
9 among the states with high participation rates in afterschool  
10 programs, that rate has been declining--from thirty-five per  
11 cent in 2004, to twenty-eight per cent in 2009, to twenty-six  
12 per cent in 2014.

13           Juvenile violence peaks in the afterschool hours on school  
14 days and in the evenings on non-school days. Sixty-three per  
15 cent of violent crimes committed by juveniles occur on school  
16 days, while nearly one-fifth of all juvenile violent crimes  
17 occur between the hours of three and seven o'clock in the



1 evening. During fiscal year 2013, the police made over three  
2 thousand arrests of juveniles in Hawaii between the ages of  
3 twelve and fourteen.

4 The legislature finds that afterschool programming  
5 represents an upfront investment in Hawaii's youth and that  
6 higher participation rates will result from state funding  
7 dedicated specifically to expanding the availability of these  
8 programs.

9 According to the department of education's *Superintendent's*  
10 *24th Annual Report* in 2013, Hawaii's high school dropout rate  
11 has reached fifteen per cent and the graduation rate is  
12 approximately eighty-two per cent. Nearly one-half of high  
13 school drop outs report that they started high school ill-  
14 prepared. Research indicates that each disconnected youth costs  
15 Hawaii taxpayers nearly \$14,000 per year. These costs increase  
16 as disenfranchised youth become part of the juvenile justice  
17 court system. The stakes of disengagement are high. Once  
18 students are disconnected, recruitment, enrollment, and  
19 retention into programs require stronger and more persistent  
20 outreach, more intensive services, and longer-term  
21 participation.



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

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



1 important to the future of Hawaii's 'opio and the welfare of our  
2 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. This funding has been  
8 instrumental during the vulnerable middle school years and has  
9 manifested positive impacts on the lives of these students, both  
10 inside and outside of the classroom. The legislature finds,  
11 however, that a dedicated program with reliable funding is  
12 necessary to provide continued and uninterrupted services to  
13 middle schools statewide.

14       The legislature further finds that the office of youth  
15 services, within the department of human services, provides  
16 comprehensive front end services and programs for youth to  
17 prevent delinquency and reduce the incidence of recidivism. The  
18 office is dedicated to creating opportunities for youth to  
19 develop competencies that foster resiliency and enable them to  
20 successfully transition to young adulthood. Acknowledging that  
21 the objectives of the R.E.A.C.H. initiative are wholly aligned



1 with those of the office of youth services, the legislature.  
2 provided funding during fiscal year 2014-2015 to the office of  
3 youth services for the R.E.A.C.H. program.

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

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

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

15 **"§352D-A Resources for enrichment, athletics, culture, and**  
16 **health (R.E.A.C.H.) program; established.** There is established  
17 the resources for enrichment, athletics, culture, and health  
18 (R.E.A.C.H.) program within the office.

19 **§352D-B Resources for enrichment, athletics, culture, and**  
20 **health (R.E.A.C.H.) program; powers and duties.** (a) The office  
21 shall provide funding to establish, support, or enhance



1 afterschool programs in public middle schools. The office may  
2 enter into contracts with middle schools, individuals,  
3 organizations, or other entities to provide afterschool programs  
4 to public middle schools.

5 (b) The office shall:

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

13 (c) The office may establish participation fees or other  
14 charges to be assessed to each student for the cost of  
15 administering and operating the R.E.A.C.H. program. The  
16 revenues from those fees shall be deposited into the R.E.A.C.H.  
17 program revolving fund to be used to fund the costs of  
18 administering and operating the program.

19 §352D-C R.E.A.C.H. program revolving fund. (a) There is  
20 established the R.E.A.C.H. program revolving fund to be  
21 administered by the office.



1        (b) The R.E.A.C.H. program revolving fund shall consist

2        of:

3        (1) Fees or other charges collected by the office for  
4        administering and operating the R.E.A.C.H. program,  
5        and the provision of program services;

6        (2) Legislative appropriations;

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

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

11       (c) All moneys in the R.E.A.C.H. program revolving fund  
12       shall be used to fund the costs of administering and operating  
13       the R.E.A.C.H. program. The office may also use the moneys to:

14       (1) Hire personnel to implement, operate, and oversee  
15       afterschool programs;

16       (2) Promote afterschool program activities;

17       (3) Conduct afterschool education and demonstration  
18       projects;

19       (4) Contract for services for afterschool programs; and

20       (5) Fund associated expenses for afterschool programs."



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

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

7 SECTION 4. In codifying the new sections added by section  
8 2 of this Act, the revisor of statutes shall substitute  
9 appropriate section numbers for the letters used in designating  
10 the new sections in this Act.

11 SECTION 5. New statutory material is underscored.

12 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.





**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 schools. Establishes a revolving fund to receive fees and other moneys to fund the costs of administering and operating the program. (HB397 HD1)

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

