
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that in Hawaii, over
2 54,000 children are left alone and unsupervised until their
3 parents return home from work each day. Yet according to the
4 Afterschool Alliance, seventy-five per cent of Hawaii parents
5 agree that after-school programs can reduce the likelihood that
6 youth will engage in risky behavior and ninety-three per cent
7 support public funding of after-school programs. The
8 legislature further finds that while Hawaii continues to be
9 among the states with high participation rates in after-school
10 programs, the rate has been declining from thirty-five per cent
11 in 2004, to twenty-eight per cent in 2009, to twenty-six per
12 cent in 2014. Juvenile violence peaks in the after-school hours
13 on school days and in the evenings on non-school days. Sixty-
14 three per cent of violent crimes committed by juveniles occur on
15 school days, while nearly one-fifth of all juvenile violent
16 crimes occur between the hours of three and seven o'clock in the
17 evening. During fiscal year 2012-2013, the police made over

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

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

21 The legislature finds that middle and intermediate school
22 years are a pivotal time for our keiki, a time when they can

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

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

1 The legislature further finds that since its inception, the
2 R.E.A.C.H. initiative has provided over \$760,000 in funding for
3 after-school programs at nine schools during the 2013-2014
4 school year, as well as eleven schools during the 2014-2015
5 school year throughout all counties in the State. The
6 legislature finds that this funding has been instrumental in
7 keeping students engaged in learning and positive development
8 during the vulnerable middle school years and has manifested
9 positive impacts on the lives of these students inside and
10 outside of the classroom. The legislature finds, however, that
11 a dedicated program with reliable funding is necessary to
12 provide continued and uninterrupted services in middle and
13 intermediate 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 achieve a successful transition to young adulthood. The
21 legislature determined that the objectives of the R.E.A.C.H.
22 initiative are wholly aligned with those of the office of youth

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

4 The purpose of this Act is to statutorily establish the
5 R.E.A.C.H. program to provide a standardized framework and
6 funding for after-school programs in public middle and
7 intermediate schools. This Act also establishes a revolving
8 fund to receive fees and other moneys to supplement the costs of
9 administering and operating the program.

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

13 "§352D- Resources for enrichment, athletics, culture,
14 and health program; established. There is established the
15 resources for enrichment, athletics, culture, and health program
16 within the office to provide support and funding for after-
17 school programs in public middle and intermediate schools.

18 §352D- Resources for enrichment, athletics, culture,
19 and health program; powers and duties. (a) The office shall
20 provide funding to establish, support, or enhance after-school
21 programs in public middle and intermediate schools. The office
22 may enter into contracts with middle or intermediate schools,

1 individuals, organizations, or other entities to provide after-
2 school programs to public middle and intermediate schools.

3 (b) The office shall:

4 (1) Establish criteria and application, selection, and
5 award processes for funding after-school programs;

6 (2) Monitor after-school programs within schools;

7 (3) Conduct site evaluations for schools with after-school
8 programs funded by the resources for enrichment,
9 athletics, culture, and health program; and

10 (4) Ensure that each after-school program meets
11 contractual requirements.

12 (c) The office may establish participation fees or other
13 charges to be assessed to each student for the cost of
14 administering and operating the resources for enrichment,
15 athletics, culture, and health program.

16 (d) The resources for enrichment, athletics, culture, and
17 health program shall be headed by a program specialist who shall
18 be appointed by the governor without regard to chapter 76.

19 §352D- Resources for enrichment, athletics, culture,
20 and health program revolving fund. (a) There is established
21 the resources for enrichment, athletics, culture, and health
22 program revolving fund to be administered by the office.

1 (b) The resources for enrichment, athletics, culture, and
2 health program revolving fund shall consist of:

3 (1) Fees collected by the office for administering and
4 operating the resources for enrichment, athletics,
5 culture, and health program, and the provision of
6 program services;

7 (2) Legislative appropriations;

8 (3) All interest earned on the deposit or investment of
9 moneys in the resources for enrichment, athletics,
10 culture and health program revolving fund; and

11 (4) Any other moneys made available to the resources for
12 enrichment, athletics, culture, and health program
13 revolving fund from any other sources.

14 (c) All moneys in the resources for enrichment, athletics,
15 culture, and health program revolving fund shall be used to
16 supplement the costs of administering and operating the
17 resources for enrichment, athletics, culture, and health
18 program. The office may also use the moneys to:

19 (1) Hire personnel to implement, operate, and oversee
20 after-school programs;

21 (2) Promote after-school program activities;

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- 1 (3) Conduct after-school education and demonstration
2 projects;
3 (4) Contract for services for after-school programs; and
4 (5) Fund associated expenses for after-school programs."

5 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

6 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

7

INTRODUCED BY:  _____
BY REQUEST

JAN 26 2015

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Report Title:

After-School Programs; Resources for Enrichment, Athletics, Culture, and Health Program

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 framework and funding base 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.

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

JUSTIFICATION SHEET

DEPARTMENT: Office of the Lieutenant Governor

TITLE: A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS.

PURPOSE: Establish the Resources for Enrichment, Athletics, Culture, and Health (R.E.A.C.H.) program to be administered by the Office of Youth Services and establish a revolving fund for the program.

MEANS: Adds new sections to Chapter 352D, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

JUSTIFICATION: Middle and intermediate school years are a pivotal time for our keiki, a time when they can succumb to peer pressure and significantly derail their educations and futures. Participation in high-quality after-school programs can lead to improved attendance, better behavior, and better academic performance.

The Office of the Lieutenant Governor established the R.E.A.C.H. initiative in 2013 with the support of funds appropriated by the Legislature that were expended for a pilot program to establish, support or expand after-school programs in middle and intermediate schools within the State. The mission of R.E.A.C.H. is to provide positive programs to keep middle and intermediate school youth engaged and on the path towards graduation.

The Office of Youth Services provides comprehensive front end services and programs for youth to prevent delinquency and reduce the incidence of recidivism.

Impact on the public: The proposed bill will establish a program and funding to provide for after-school programs in middle and intermediate schools. Participation in these after-school programs can help to keep students engaged and excited about learning and keep them on the path towards graduation, thereby helping to reduce dropout rates and future draws on public resources.

Impact on the department and other agencies:
The Office of Youth services will undertake a new program that is in line with its current mission to provide support for our youth.

GENERAL FUND: None

OTHER FUNDS: None

PPBS PROGRAM
DESIGNATION: HMS501

OTHER AFFECTED
AGENCIES: Office of Youth Services, Department of Education.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon approval.