
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 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 after-school programs can reduce the
6 likelihood that youth will engage in risky behavior and ninety-
7 three per cent support public funding of after-school programs.
8 The legislature further finds that while Hawaii continues to be
9 among the states with high participation rates, that rate has
10 been declining from thirty-five per cent in 2004, to twenty-
11 eight per cent in 2009, and twenty-six per cent in 2014.
12 Juvenile violence peaks in the after-school hours on school days
13 and in the evenings on non-school days. Sixty-three per cent of
14 violent crimes committed by juveniles occur on school days,
15 while nearly one-fifth of all juvenile violent crimes occur
16 between the hours of three and seven o'clock in the evening.
17 During fiscal year 2012-2013, the police made over three



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

3 The legislature additionally finds that after-school
4 programming represents an upfront investment in Hawaii's youth
5 and that higher participation rates in other states may be due
6 to significant state funding dedicated specifically to expanding
7 the availability of after-school programs. According to the
8 superintendent's twenty-fifth annual report published in October
9 2015, Hawaii's dropout rate has reached nearly fifteen per cent
10 with a graduation rate of only around eighty-two per cent.
11 Nearly half of the high school dropouts reported that they
12 started high school ill-prepared. Research indicates that each
13 disconnected youth costs the taxpayers nearly \$14,000 per year,
14 which can continue and even increase in the future as some
15 disenfranchised youth become part of the juvenile justice court
16 systems. The stakes of disengagement are high. Once students
17 are disconnected, recruitment, enrollment, and retention into
18 programs require stronger and more persistent outreach, more
19 intensive services, and more long-term participation.

20 The legislature also finds that middle school years are a
21 pivotal time for the State's haumana, or students – a time when



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

12 The legislature further 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 additionally finds that the establishment of a
19 state-subsidized after-school program for public middle and
20 intermediate school students is important to the future of
21 Hawaii's 'opio and the welfare of the State as a whole.



1 The legislature also finds that since its inception, the
2 R.E.A.C.H. initiative has provided over \$1,400,000 in funding
3 for after-school programs including nine schools during the
4 2013-2014 school year, eleven schools during the 2014-2015
5 school year, and nineteen schools during the 2015-2016 school
6 year throughout all counties in the State. The legislature
7 further finds that this funding has been instrumental during the
8 vulnerable middle school years and has manifested positive
9 impacts on the lives of these students inside and outside of the
10 classroom. The legislature finds, however, that a dedicated
11 program with reliable funding is necessary to provide continued
12 and uninterrupted services in middle and intermediate schools
13 statewide.

14 The legislature additionally 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 of youth services is dedicated to creating opportunities
19 for youth to develop competencies that foster resiliency and
20 enable them to achieve a successful transition to young
21 adulthood. The legislature determines that the objectives of



1 the R.E.A.C.H. initiative are wholly aligned with those of the
2 office of youth services and, accordingly, provided funding
3 during fiscal years 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 to the office of
4 youth services for the R.E.A.C.H. initiative.

5 The purpose of this Act is to provide a standardized
6 framework and funding for after-school programs in public middle
7 and intermediate schools. Specifically, this Act establishes
8 the R.E.A.C.H. program within the office of youth services.

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

12 "§352D-A Resources for enrichment, athletics, culture, and
13 health (R.E.A.C.H.) program; established. There is established
14 the resources for enrichment, athletics, culture, and health
15 (R.E.A.C.H.) program within the office.

16 §352D-B Resources for enrichment, athletics, culture, and
17 health (R.E.A.C.H.) program; implementation. (a) The office
18 shall provide funding to establish, support, or enhance after-
19 school programs in public middle schools. The office may enter
20 into contracts with middle schools, individuals, organizations,



1 or other entities to provide after-school programs to public
2 middle schools.

3 (b) The office shall:

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

6 (2) Monitor the after-school programs within each school;

7 (3) Conduct site evaluations for schools with after-school
8 programs funded under the R.E.A.C.H. program;

9 (4) Ensure each after-school program meets contractual
10 expectations; and

11 (5) Report annually to the legislature on the
12 implementation of programs and use of funds under the
13 R.E.A.C.H. program, including but not limited to
14 information on grants awarded to provide services to
15 public middle schools, current and future plans to
16 assess or collect fees, and efforts to obtain non-
17 state funding for the financial sustainability of the
18 R.E.A.C.H. program.

19 §352D-C Resources for enrichment, athletics, culture, and
20 health (R.E.A.C.H.) program; requirements, fees. In accordance
21 with chapter 91, the office may establish program requirements



1 and participation fees or other charges to be assessed to each
2 participant for the cost of administering and operating the
3 R.E.A.C.H. program."

4 SECTION 3. Section 352D-3, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
5 amended by adding two new definitions to be appropriately
6 inserted and to read as follows:

7 "Public middle schools" means all academic and noncollege
8 type middle and intermediate schools established and maintained
9 by the department of education, including charter schools
10 governed by chapter 302D.

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

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

18 SECTION 5. New statutory material is underscored.

19 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2030.



Report Title:

After-school Programs; Resources for Enrichment, Athletics,
Culture, and Health Program; Office of Youth Services

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 after-school
programs in public middle and intermediate schools. (SB2231
HD1)

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not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

