
A BILL FOR AN ACT

MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO SUPPORT THE AFTER-SCHOOL PLUS PROGRAM.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that in the United
2 States, more than one-fourth of school-age children are left
3 alone and unsupervised during afterschool hours. The majority
4 of these children are elementary and intermediate school
5 students who are at an age at which they may be vulnerable to
6 outside vices.

7 The legislature also finds that children are awake
8 approximately six thousand hours per year, but spend only one
9 thousand hours per year in the classroom. Therefore, the
10 effective use of out-of-school hours is an important development
11 opportunity for children.

12 The legislature further finds that the after-school plus
13 (A+) program was created in 1989 to provide an avenue for
14 keeping children in a safe and nurturing environment during the
15 time when school is over until they are in the complete care of
16 their families. Moreover, the legislature finds that the after-
17 school plus (A+) program has been operating successfully for the



1 past decade and a half, with upwards of twenty thousand
2 elementary school children enrolled in the program in more than
3 one hundred and eighty elementary schools statewide.

4 The legislature finds that funding for the after-school
5 plus (A+) program has been achieved through three primary
6 sources: legislative appropriations through the department of
7 education; participation subsidies provided through the
8 department of human services for children who are eligible for
9 assistance through the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families
10 program; and monthly tuition contributions by parents of
11 children who do not qualify for subsidy assistance. When the
12 program was established in 1989-1990, the total budget for the
13 after-school plus (A+) program was \$15,600,000.

14 The legislature also finds that during the state financial
15 crisis of 2008-2009, the after-school plus (A+) program support
16 consisted of \$1,957,213 from legislative appropriations to the
17 department of education, nearly \$7,000,000 through department of
18 human services subsidies, and family tuition contributions.
19 However, by 2011-2012, no money was appropriated to the
20 department of education to support the after-school plus (A+)
21 program; the program was solely supported through department of



1 human services subsidies and family tuition contributions. For
2 families that do not qualify for a subsidy, the tuition payments
3 for after-school plus (A+) program participation have risen from
4 \$25 per child per month in 1989-1990 to \$85 per child per month
5 in 2010-2011.

6 Further, the legislature finds that while the after-school
7 plus (A+) program remains an important and viable after school
8 alternative for thousands of elementary school children
9 statewide, operating costs will increase dramatically in 2015
10 due to the implementation of minimum wage increases that affect
11 after-school plus (A+) program staff stipends. In addition, the
12 legislature finds that there is significant need for after-
13 school plus (A+) program improvement.

14 The purpose of this Act is to increase the amount of
15 funding the legislature provides to the after-school plus (A+)
16 program to the department of education to:

- 17 (1) Enhance oversight and administration of the after-
18 school plus (A+) program by developing and
19 implementing professional training for program staff
20 and an evaluation system;



- 1 (2) Enhance and improve the content of the after-school
- 2 plus (A+) program; and
- 3 (3) Alleviate the tuition burden on families of children
- 4 participating in the after-school plus (A+) program.

5 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the after-school
6 plus program revolving fund established pursuant to section
7 302A-1149.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, the sum of \$1,000,000 or
8 so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2015-2016
9 and the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for
10 fiscal year 2016-2017 to support the after-school plus (A+)
11 program by enhancing and improving the content of after-school
12 (A+) programs, developing and implementing a professional
13 development training for program staff and an evaluation system,
14 and alleviating the financial burden of families whose children
15 attend these programs.

16 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
17 of education for the purposes of this Act.

18 SECTION 3. The department of education shall prepare a
19 report detailing:



- 1 (1) The efforts of the department to address how increases
- 2 in the state minimum wage will affect the after-school
- 3 plus (A+) program; and
- 4 (2) Proposals to assist families struggling with the
- 5 tuition costs of the after-school plus (A+) program,
- 6 including proposals to establish a differential fee
- 7 structure based on family income or size or other
- 8 factors.

9 The department shall submit the report, including any
10 findings, recommendations, or proposed legislation, to the
11 legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
12 the regular session of 2016.

13 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



Report Title:

After-School Plus (A+) Program; Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates moneys for the After-School Plus (A+) Program. Requires DOE to submit a report to the legislature regarding efforts to address the impact of increased minimum wage on the A+ Program and proposal to assist families with A+ Program tuition. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD1)

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