

OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
STATE OF HAWAII
STATE CAPITOL
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

SHAN S. TSUTSUI
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

TESTIMONY OF
THE OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
TO THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

HOUSE BILL NO. 959
Relating to After-School Programs

February 3, 2015

Chair Morikawa, Vice Chair Kobayashi, and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of House Bill No. (HB) 959. This measure seeks to establish a program that will provide after-school programs in public middle and intermediate schools throughout the state of Hawaii. R.E.A.C.H., which is an acronym for resources for enrichment, athletics, culture and health is an initiative aimed at keeping Hawaii's youth engaged and excited about learning during the after-school hours so they can stay on the right path towards high school graduation and be better prepared for future success. Programs offered will be from three general categories: academic enrichment, arts and culture, and athletics.

The middle school years are a critical time in a child's life where disengagement can start to take hold. The stakes of disengagement are high. Once students disconnect, recruitment and retention programs require stronger, more persistent outreach and more long-term participation. Juvenile crime, drug rehabilitation, counseling and other forms of intervention result in higher costs to taxpayers. The bottom line is that after-school programs keep kids on the path that leads to high school, college, career, and ultimately, a better quality of life. This bill addresses a critical need for Hawaii's middle school students.

This bill establishes new sections under Chapter 352D, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to create the R.E.A.C.H. program in the Office of Youth Services in order to provide a standardized framework for after-school programs offered in public middle/intermediate schools. The program would be administered by the Office of Youth Services. Last year, the Legislature provided funding to support the R.E.A.C.H. program for FY15.

Eleven public middle/intermediate schools have thus far benefited from FY15 funding, including one public charter school.

Provisions in the bill allow for participation fees to be established which would serve to supplement the cost of administering and operating the program and enhance the sustainability of R.E.A.C.H. Additionally, the Office of Youth Services is dedicated to creating opportunities for the youth to develop competencies that foster resiliency and enable them to achieve a successful transition to young adulthood. The objectives of the R.E.A.C.H. initiative are wholly aligned with the objectives of the Office of Youth Services. Over the past year, our office has worked collaboratively with the Department of Education (DOE), the Office of Youth Services, and a working group of middle school principals and DOE administrators to develop both the pilot project and the long-term structure for R.E.A.C.H. In addition to the working group, an Advisory Board comprised of well-known community leaders committed to improving outcomes for Hawaii's youth was also established to provide insight, guidance, and support for this important initiative.


In conclusion, we would like to thank the legislature for its support with the pilot project and initial funding for a R.E.A.C.H. program for FY15. We hope that we can continue to build upon what has been started. The Office of the Lieutenant Governor **strongly supports** HB 956 and respectfully urges the passage of this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
OFFICE OF YOUTH SERVICES
707 Richards Street, Suite 525
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

February 2, 2015

TO: The Honorable Dee Morikawa, Chair
House Committee on Human Services

FROM: David Hipp, Executive Director 

SUBJECT: **HB 959 – RELATING TO AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS**

Hearing: Tuesday, February 3, 2015
State Capitol, Conference Room 329

PURPOSE: The purpose of HB 959, Relating to After-School Programs, is to establish the resources for enrichment, athletics, culture and health (R.E.A.C.H.) program in the Office of Youth Services (OYS) to provide a standardized framework and funding for after-schools programs in public middle and intermediate schools. The initiative from the Lieutenant Governor's Office also:

- establishes a revolving fund to receive fees and other moneys to supplement the costs of administering and operating the program
- appropriates funds for establishing the program

OFFICE'S POSITION: OYS strongly supports HB 959, Relating to After-School Programs. There are several common denominators in the lives of our at-risk youth, including but not limited to: a lack of connectedness, a sense of not belonging, and failure in school. These factors all lead to poor decision making – which is evidenced by the fact that middle school aged children represent nearly ½ of all first time juvenile arrests in our state.

Providing quality after school programming for middle schoolers through the R.E.A.C.H. program will address those very issues – relationships, connections and school engagement will positively impact school attendance and success, and is a critical prevention tool in the juvenile justice arena. Therefore, this bill is one of the Keiki Caucus' priorities.

Currently, there are 11 middle/intermediate schools statewide receiving R.E.A.C.H funds, including three schools on Oahu, four on Hawaii Island, two on Maui, one on Molokai and one on Kauai. These schools have introduced programming ranging from robotics to band, tutoring to athletics, and cultural programming to health and nutrition.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

HAWAII YOUTH SERVICES NETWORK

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Blueprint for Change
Bobby Benson Center
Catholic Charities Hawaii
Child and Family Service
Coalition for a Drug Free Hawaii
Courage House Hawaii
Domestic Violence Action Center
EPIIC, Inc.
Family Programs Hawaii
Family Support Hawaii
Hale Kipa, Inc.
Hale 'Opio Kauai, Inc.
Hawaii Behavioral Health
Hawaii Student Television
Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies Coalition
Hina Mauka Teen Care
Hui Malama Learning Center
Kaanalike
Kahi Mohala Behavioral Health
KEY (Kualoa-Heeiea Ecumenical Youth)
Project
Kids Hurt Too
Kokua Kalihi Valley
Life Foundation
Marimed Foundation
Maui Youth and Family Services
Palama Settlement
P.A.R.E.N.T.S., Inc.
Parents and Children Together (PACT)
Planned Parenthood of Hawaii
REAL
Salvation Army Family Intervention Svcs.
Salvation Army Family Treatment Svcs.
Sex Abuse Treatment Center
Susannah Wesley Community Center
The Catalyst Group
The Children's Alliance of Hawaii
Waikiki Health Center
Women Helping Women
YWCA of Kauai

January 29, 2015

To: Senator Dee Morikawa, Chair
And members of the Committee on Human Services

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 959 RELATING TO AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS

Hawaii Youth Services Network (HYSN), a statewide coalition of youth-serving organizations, supports HB 959 Relating to Afterschool Programs.

High quality after-school programs are effective in reducing the risk of a variety of undesirable behaviors among adolescents, including unplanned pregnancy, sexually transmitted infections, juvenile crime, and substance abuse. They can increase school achievement, reduce dropout rates, and provide service learning opportunities that teach young people the value of contributing back to their communities.

Hawaii has the highest percentage of households in the United States in which all adults are employed. These working families need after school programs to ensure that children are safe and engaged in productive activities.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Judith F. Clark, MPH

Dr. Tom Apple
President/Treasurer

Duane E. Kurisu
Vice President

Ann C. Lum
Director

Tyler Tokioka
Director

Lt. Governor Shan S. Tsutsui
Director

Jayson M. Watts
Executive Director/Board
Secretary



TESTIMONY OF
DR. TOM APPLE
AND THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF REACH OUT HAWAI'I
TO THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

HOUSE BILL NO. 959
Relating to After-school Programs

February 3, 2015

Dear Chair Morikawa and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in *strong support* of House Bill No. 959.

I am Tom Apple, Professor of Chemistry and former Chancellor of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa and also President of a non-profit organization called REACH Out Hawai'i which was established a little over a year ago to support the state's R.E.A.C.H. initiative of developing a comprehensive framework for after-school programs for public middle and intermediate schools throughout the state.

Our mission at REACH Out Hawai'i is to leverage resources from the private and public sector to build a sustainable funding base for high quality programs that keep our kids engaged in learning so they can succeed in school and in life.

As an active Professor of Chemistry and the former Chancellor of the state's flagship public institution for higher education, I have a personal stake in promoting and supporting R.E.A.C.H. as middle schools are the pipeline to higher education. We are all far too familiar with the need to increase both our high school graduation and college going rates. In order to affect this, we need to place more attention at the middle school level and this bill will achieve this. The need to leverage the power of expanded learning opportunities after school has never been greater as our world has become increasingly complex. We have come to realize that instructional hours alone cannot support all of the learning needs required to adequately prepare Hawai'i's youth not only for higher education, but for a career in the 21st century and a globally competitive job market.

We *strongly support* HB 959 and respectfully urge the passage of this bill. The bill addresses a critical need for Hawai'i's middle school students.

Thank you for your continued commitment to our keiki and the opportunity to testify.

kobayashi2-Lynda

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, January 30, 2015 6:01 PM
To: HUS testimony
Cc: kalawaiag@hotmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB959 on Feb 3, 2015 08:30AM*

HB959

Submitted on: 1/30/2015

Testimony for HUS on Feb 3, 2015 08:30AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kalawai'a Goo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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