

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

February 28, 2015

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

FROM: Rachael Wong, DrPH, Director

SUBJECT: **S.B. 866 – MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO SUPPORT THE AFTER-SCHOOL PLUS PROGRAM**

**Hearing: Monday, March 2, 2015, 9:00 AM
Conference Room 211, State Capitol**

PURPOSE: The purpose of this bill is to appropriate moneys for the After-School Plus (A+) Program.

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports this bill as long as its passage does not adversely impact the priorities set forth in the Executive Budget.

The purpose of the A+ Program is to reduce the incidence of “latch-key” children by providing a safe, affordable and structured after-school child care for working families with children attending Department of Education (DOE) elementary schools.

DHS continues to subsidize the full cost of A+ Program fees for approximately 8,081 children of employed families eligible to receive Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) benefits. Any increase in program fees would result in either less children being served, or a need for additional appropriation to the DHS to maintain the current level of service.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this bill.

Hawai'i Afterschool Alliance
841 Bishop Street, Suite 301 · Honolulu, HI 96813

February 27, 2015

Senate Committee on Ways and Means
State Capitol, Room 211
Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Senator Ronald D. Kouchi, Vice Chair

Re: Support of SB866: Making an appropriation to support the After-School Plus (A+) Program.

Dear Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kouchi, and Members of the Committee,

The Hawai'i Afterschool Alliance strongly supports Senate Bill 866, which seeks to restore some of the funding to the After-School Plus (A+) Program that was taken away during the 2009 state fiscal crisis.

At this point in time, the A+ Program is solely supported by parents' monthly fees and subsidies from the Department of Human Services for children who are eligible for assistance. These two sources of funding barely covers the cost of the A+ program. The increase of the minimum wage as of January 1, 2015 has directly affected the A+ Program by increasing the cost of it. Legislative support is needed to alleviate the tuition burden on families and to make the A+ a high-quality program for Hawaii afterschool students.

The "2014 America After 3PM" report that is attached to this testimony articulates some relevant and important statistics:

- **93% of Hawai'i parents support public funding for afterschool programs,**
- 86% of Hawai'i parents agree that afterschool programs give working parents peace of mind about their children when they are at work,
- 72% of parents in Hawai'i agree that afterschool programs help parents keep their jobs,
- 75% of Hawai'i parents agree that afterschool programs reduce the likelihood that youth will engage in risky behaviors, and
- 62% of the parents in Hawai'i agree that afterschool programs excite children about learning.

These numbers provide strong reasoning for protecting and supporting Hawai'i's quality afterschool programs.

In conclusion, the Hawai'i Afterschool Alliance strongly supports SB866 and respectfully urges the passage of this bill so that students in Hawai'i have the support they need to participate in a high-quality afterschool program. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Paula Adams
Executive Director
Hawai'i Afterschool Alliance
(p/f): 808-380-1602



HAWAII AFTER 3PM

America After 3PM surveyed parents in Hawaii to examine how children spend the hours between 3 and 6 p.m.—the hours after school ends and before parents typically return home from work. It highlights the trends in afterschool program participation, documents the benefits associated with participation in afterschool programs, and measures public support for afterschool programs.

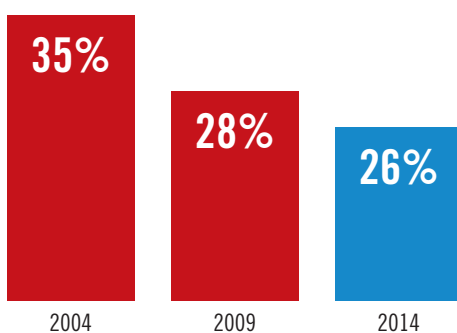


America After 3PM revealed that **54,184 children (26%) in Hawaii** participate in an afterschool program, yet **59,057 children (38%) would be enrolled** in a program if one were available to them.

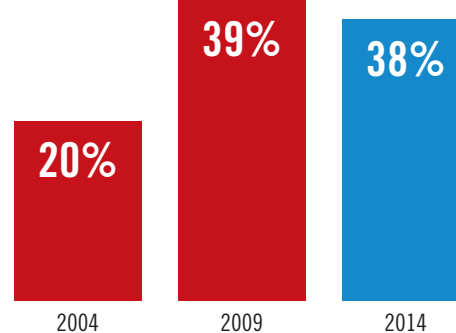
With **89% of Hawaii's parents satisfied with their child's afterschool program** and **68% agreeing that afterschool programs give working parents peace of mind**, more work needs to be done to ensure that all children in Hawaii are able to take part in an afterschool program that keeps them safe, inspires learning and supports working parents.

OVERALL DEMAND FOR AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS

Afterschool Program Participation in Hawaii



Demand for Afterschool Programs in Hawaii



17%

of children are unsupervised after school in 2014 for an average of 9.2 hours per week.

On average, children spend **7.63 hours and 4.4 days per week** in an afterschool program.

Hawaii Parents are Satisfied with their Child's Afterschool Program

- 89% are satisfied with their child's afterschool program overall.
- 86% are satisfied with their child's afterschool program's safe environment.
- 79% are satisfied with their child's afterschool program's quality of care.
- Hawaii parents cited as their top five reasons for selecting an afterschool program: the hours meet their needs (89%), location is convenient (87%), quality of care (86%), the program is a safe haven (85%) and their child enjoys the afterschool program (83%).

Afterschool Programs Provide a Wide Range of Benefits to Hawaii's Children and Families

- 62% of parents agree that afterschool programs can help excite children about learning.
- 64% of parents agree that afterschool programs help children gain workforce skills, such as teamwork, leadership and critical thinking.
- 75% of Hawaii parents agree that afterschool programs can help reduce the likelihood that youth will engage in risky behaviors, such as commit a crime or use drugs, or become a teen parent.
- The top five activities Hawaii parents report are offered by their child's afterschool program are opportunities for physical activity (94%), homework assistance (87%), music or art (64%), before-school programs (63%) and opportunities for reading or writing (51%).

Hawaii Parents Support Public Funding for Afterschool Programs

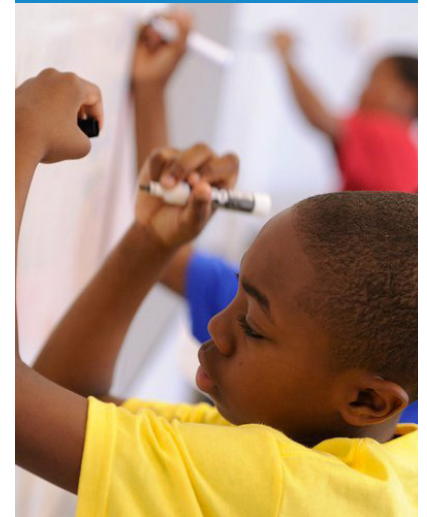
- 93% of Hawaii parents support public funding for afterschool programs, while just 16% report receiving government assistance with the cost of their child's program.
- 68% of Hawaii parents agree that afterschool programs help give working parents peace of mind about their children when they are at work.
- 72% of Hawaii parents agree that afterschool programs help working parents keep their jobs.

ABOUT THE SURVEY

The percentages and projected numbers of children and families in *America After 3PM* are based on survey responses from parents. The Afterschool Alliance contracted with Shugoll Research to collect the data. Nationally, 30,720 households were screened, and 13,709 households completed in-depth interviews via an online survey using a blend of national consumer panels. At least 200 households completed interviews in every state and the District of Columbia, between Feb. 28 and April 17, 2014. In Hawaii 200 households and 382 children were screened for this study. Child-level statewide projections and total school enrollment numbers are based on 2011-2012 Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics. Total school enrollment for Hawaii is 210,833. For additional information about *America After 3PM*, visit: <http://afterschoolalliance.org/AA3PM>.

America After 3PM is funded by the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, The Wallace Foundation, the Ford Foundation and the Noyce Foundation, with additional support from the Heinz Endowments, The Robert Bowne Foundation and the Samueli Foundation.

Snapshot of Afterschool Programs in Hawaii



26% of Hawaii children in an afterschool program qualify for the Federal Free and Reduced Price Lunch Program.

In Hawaii, the top three providers of afterschool programs are afterschool programs run by a public school, YMCA afterschool programs and afterschool programs run by a private school.

76% of afterschool programs in Hawaii are located in a public school building.

On average, Hawaii families who pay for their child's afterschool program spend \$51 per week.

After lack of need, the predominant obstacles to enrollment include:

Preference for alternative activities.

The afterschool programs are too expensive.

841 Bishop St., Suite 301
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813



Telephone: 808 926-1530
Contact@HEECoalition.org

Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Senator Jill Tokuda, Chair
Senator Ronald Kouchi, Vice Chair

March 2, 2015

Dear Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kouchi, and Committee Members:

This testimony is in support of SB866, which makes an appropriation to support the Afterschool Plus Program.

The Hui for Excellence in Education (HE'E) is a diverse coalition of over 40 parent and community organizations dedicated to improving student achievement by increasing family and community engagement and partnerships in our schools. Our member list is attached.

Because of Hawaii's high cost of living, parents and family members are often doing multiple jobs to make ends meet. Afterschool programs such as the A+ Program help lessen the burden on families who are not able to care for their children afterschool due to work. The program also keeps children in a safe place.

We support restoring funding at the Department of Education for the A+ Program back to levels that existed prior to the state's financial crisis. We also support the bill's emphasis on improving content and quality and supporting professional training and evaluation for staff.

We also would like the legislature to consider **amending the eligibility criteria to allow all children to participate.** We have heard from parents who are not currently eligible that they would gladly participate in the program at full price because often times, the A+ Program is the most appropriate afterschool option for their children. With more paying participants, additional revenue could be generated to help support the program.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Our support of this bill represents a 75% consensus or more of our membership.

Sincerely,

Cheri Nakamura
HE'E Coalition Director

Academy 21
After-School All-Stars Hawaii
Alliance for Place Based Learning
*Castle Complex Community Council
*Castle-Kahuku Principal and CAS
Center for Civic Education
Coalition for Children with Special Needs
*Faith Action for Community Equity
Fresh Leadership LLC
Girl Scouts Hawaii
*Good Beginnings Alliance
Harold K.L. Castle Foundation
*Hawaii Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice
Hawai'i Athletic League of Scholars
*Hawai'i Charter School Network
*Hawai'i Nutrition and Physical Activity Coalition
*Hawaii State PTSA
Hawai'i State Student Council
Hawai'i State Teachers Association
Hawai'i P-20
Hawai'i 3Rs
Head Start Collaboration Office
It's All About Kids
*INPEACE
Joint Venture Education Forum
Junior Achievement of Hawaii
*Kaho'omiki
Kamehameha Schools
Kanu Hawai'i
*Kaua'i Ho'okele Council
Keiki to Career Kaua'i
Kupu A'e
*Leaders for the Next Generation
Learning First
McREL's Pacific Center for Changing the Odds
Our Public School
*Pacific Resources for Education and Learning

*Parents and Children Together
*Parents for Public Schools Hawai'i
Punahou School PUEO Program
Teach for America
The Learning Coalition
US PACOM
University of Hawai'i College of Education
YMCA of Honolulu

Voting Members () Voting member organizations vote on action items while individual and non-voting participants may collaborate on all efforts within the coalition.*

Testimony in Support of SB 866
To Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Hawaii State Legislature
Monday, March 2, 2015

By Mark E. Zeug, President, Kahoomiki

Committee chair Tokuda, vice chair Kouchi, and members of the committee:

My name is Mark Zeug, and I am president of a small non-profit that administers a physical fitness and nutrition education program within the A+ after school program. For the past seven years, we have been working with the Department of Education, and with independent A+ program providers like the YMCA and Kama`aina Kids.

I am testifying in support of this bill because I believe the A+ program can be significantly improved to meet the expanded-learning needs of the 20,000 children who participate in A+ each day. This bill is designed to restore to the program funding that was cut from it during the fiscal crisis in 2009. When A+ was created back in 1989-90, the legislature provided an appropriation of around \$11 million for its support and organization. Over the years, that support was reduced to around \$6 million per year, while parents of A+ participants were required to pay a monthly tuition fee to help cover expenses.

Four years ago, that Legislative support through the DOE was reduced to zero, and the parents' fee was raised from \$55 per month per child to \$85 per month. With that increase, the Department of Human Services, which covers the participation fees of those children whose families require temporary assistance, saw its share of A+ costs rise to approximately \$6 million a year. But responsibility for this valuable and popular program remains with the Department of Education, for which it has no direct legislative support – it is an unfunded mandate.

We believe restoring legislative support to A+, to the level it was before the cuts sustained in 2008-2009, or about \$6 million per year, would do two things:

First, it would ensure that participation in the program could continue without another tuition increase, while all A+ program providers could maintain the staffing required to meet the needs of the participants.

Second, and more important from my view, it would provide the funds necessary to help build the A+ program into the kind of expanded learning opportunity that it contains. It's easy to measure that opportunity – 20,000 elementary school children statewide, held as a captive audience for three hours a day, five days a week, ten months out of the year. That's a huge expanded learning opportunity, and it reaches a part of the community that often cannot otherwise get the kinds of after-school programming that helps students succeed.

We believe it is imperative that we do all we can to make A+ an outstanding expanded learning opportunity for all child participants. We strongly support this bill, and urge the Legislature to fund it at a level commensurate with its importance and value.

Thank you for allowing me to present this information.

Aloha,
Mark Zeug, President, Kaho`omiki



MOILIILI COMMUNITY CENTER

February 27, 2015

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair

Senator Ronald D. Kouchi, Vice Chair and Members of the Committee

Re: SB 866 After-School Plus (A+) Program - Written Testimony Only

Moiliili Community Center supports SB 866, "Making an appropriation to support the After-School Plus (A+) Program".

As the minimum wage increased in January 2015, and will continue to increase for the next three years, the rising cost for after-school programs will be affected.

Currently, the program is supported by the parent's monthly fees and the Department of Human Service subsidies for income eligible families. Legislation support is needed to substitute tuition burden, maintain continued participation, and to continue a high quality after-school program.

As an A+ Private Provider since 1990, and an advocate of after-school programs, parent's need an affordable child care program to assure their child's safety and accountability while they are working, going to school, or in a job training program.

In support of SB 866, please consider the passage of this bill to continue and maintain the quality of After-School A+ Programs in Hawaii.

Sincerely,

Brenda Nakamura

Children & Families Director

E-mail: brendan@moiliilicc.org





**FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

YMCA of Honolulu
Testimony in Support of SB 866
TO THE HONORABLE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
March 2, 2015
WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

Senator Tokuda, Chair; Senator Kouchi, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee:

The YMCA of Honolulu stands in strong support of SB 866 "Making an appropriation to support the Afterschool APLUS (A+) Program". SB 866 calls for restoring funding to the State's Afterschool A+ Program, which was removed during the 2009 fiscal crisis.

Hawaii took pride in its commitment to ensure the safety and well-being of "latch key" children when the Afterschool A+ Program was established in 1989. The intent was to provide quality affordable care when the school day ended so parents could be worry-free and productive at work or focus on furthering their education or job training to secure a brighter future for their families. The children would be safe in a supervised environment, receive help with their homework, and engage in a range of enriching activities. Over time this commitment has declined due to the removal of appropriated funds that subsidized the cost of the program and provided for adequate administrative staffing. Our State's Afterschool A+ Program serves approximately 20,000 children, statewide. That is significant. Today, with the removal of State funds, our families carry the full cost of the Program, which places a financial strain on many who strive to earn a living to support their families. Our families need our State's Afterschool A+ Program. It is held at their child's school, a place they know and trust that their child will be safe and taken care of.

The cost of quality care comes with a price. As one of Hawaii's largest private A+ provider serving nearly 7,000 children on Oahu alone, the YMCA bears witness to the struggles families are faced with by the added cost of child care. At the same time, providers like the YMCA are challenged to maintain the highest quality possible in the staff we hire and experiences we provide for the children entrusted in our care. With the recent passage of the well-needed minimum wage law, as an example, operating costs will increase. SB 866 calls for the reinstatement of appropriated funds to the State's Afterschool A+ Program which will support the enhancement of oversight and administration of the A+ Program, provide for professional training for program staff, and ultimately improve the content of the A+ Program.

The YMCA fully supports SB 866 and respectfully urges the passage of this bill so Hawaii's students may receive the quality care and support that they need and deserve.

Sincerely,
Michael Broderick, President/CEO

SB866

Submitted on: 2/27/2015

Testimony for WAM on Mar 2, 2015 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	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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Testimony in Support of SB 866
TO THE HONORABLE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Senator Tokuda, Chair; Senator Kouchi, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee:

I strongly support SB 866, which seeks to restore funding to the Afterschool Plus (A+) Program that was taken away during the 2009 state fiscal crisis.

I have been working for the A+ program for 5 years now and I have personally witnessed the benefits of the program. The program allows for help with the students' homework, opportunities to develop and learn social skills they may not be able to experience during the regular school day, to experience and participate in enrichment activities, and gives them a safe place to be instead of waiting at public parks or walking home to an empty house. Parents tell me everyday how much they appreciate and need our A+ program. It helps them to know that their children are safe, having fun, and are taken care of while they are either at work or in college.

Studies ("2014 America After 3PM") tell us that:

- 93% of Hawaii's parents support public funding for after school programs;
- 86% of Hawaii's parents agree that afterschool programs give parents peace of mind about their children when they are at work;
- 72% of parents in Hawaii' agree that afterschool programs help parents keep their jobs;
- 75% of Hawaii's parents agree that afterschool programs reduce the likelihood that youth will engage in risky behaviors; and
- 62% of the parents in Hawaii agree that afterschool programs excite children about learning.

These numbers provide strong reasoning for protecting and supporting Hawaii's quality afterschool programs.

Please pass bill SB 866 so children can continue to receive quality care and support they need and deserve everyday after school.

Sincerely,

Jaimee Tabangay, A+ Site Coordinator
jtabangay23@gmail.com