



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 EDUCATION

**SENATE BILL 980, SENATE DRAFT 1, HOUSE DRAFT 1**  
Relating to Afterschool Programs

March 25, 2015

Chair Takumi, Vice Chair Ohno, and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **strong support** of Senate Bill 980, Senate Draft 1, House Draft 1. 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 high quality 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.

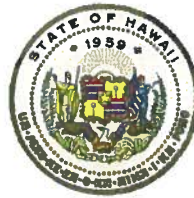
This bill establishes new sections under Chapter 352D, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to create the R.E.A.C.H. program in the Office of Youth Services in order to provide a standardized framework for after-school programs offered in public middle/intermediate schools. The program would be administered by the 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 FY15. It is our hope that we can continue to build upon what has been started.


Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **strong support**.



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

March 23, 2015

TO: The Honorable Roy M. Takumi, Chair  
House Committee on Education

FROM: David Hipp, Executive Director 

SUBJECT: **SB 980, SD1, HD 1 - RELATING TO AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS**

Hearing: Wednesday, March 25, 2015, 2:00 pm  
State Capitol, Conference Room 309

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of SB 980, SD1, HD1, Relating to Afterschool 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 special 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 SB 980, SD1, HD1, Relating to Afterschool 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.

Lieutenant Governor Tsutsui's recognition of how vulnerable our youth are during their middle school years, and his vision for sustainable programming to develop competencies that foster resiliency in our youth to enable them achieve a positive transition to young adulthood is a proactive and necessary approach in ensuring the success of Hawai'i's youth.

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 – and we are seeing very encouraging results.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.



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TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE  
ON EDUCATION

DATE: WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25, 2015

RE: S.B. 980, S.D. 1, H.D. 1 – RELATING TO AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS

PERSON TESTIFYING: JOAN LEWIS, VICE PRESIDENT  
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

The Honorable Chair Roy Takumi, Honorable Vice Chair Takashi Ohno and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association (HSTA) **supports S.B. 980, S.D. 1, H.D. 1** relating to the R.E.A.C.H. afterschool program.

HSTA has long supported the importance of afterschool programs for youth and would like to acknowledge the Lieutenant Governor for his work in this important program for our youth.

HSTA represents over 13,500 public school teachers and public charter school teachers, we therefore appreciate the legislature's inclusion of Public Charter Schools in H.D. 1 of S.B. 980, S.D. 2.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

**Dr. Tom Apple**  
President/Treasurer

**Duane E. Kurisu**  
Vice President

**Lori 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 HAWAII  
TO THE  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

**SENATE BILL 980, SENATE DRAFT 1, HOUSE DRAFT 1**  
Relating to Afterschool Programs

March 25, 2015

Dear Chair Takumi, Vice Chair Ohno, and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in *strong support* of Senate Bill 980, Senate Draft 1, House Draft 1.

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 afterschool 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 help 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 21<sup>st</sup> century and a globally competitive job market.

We *strongly support* SB 980, SD 1, HD 1 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.

# HAWAII YOUTH SERVICES NETWORK

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Bay Clinic, Inc.  
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Honolulu  
Big Island Substance Abuse Council  
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  
EPIC, 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-Heeia 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

March 23, 2015

To: Representative Roy Takumi, Chair  
And members of the Committee on Education

## **TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 890 SD1 HD1 RELATING TO AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS**

Hawaii Youth Services Network (HYSN), a statewide coalition of youth-serving organizations, supports SB 890 SD1 HD1 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



**SB980 SD1 HD1**  
**RELATING TO AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS**  
House Committee on Education

March 25, 2015

2:00 p.m.

Room 309

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The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** SB980 SD1 HD1, which would establish a Resources for Enrichment, Athletics, Culture and Health (R.E.A.C.H.) Program within the Office of Youth Services.

The R.E.A.C.H. initiative proposes to fill the current void of after-school activities for public middle and intermediate school students with an organizational framework, which will ensure that our ‘ōpio at this highly impressionable and vulnerable age receive the kind of positive support and educational stimulation to keep them motivated and engaged in academic enrichment, arts and culture, and athletics.

In recognition of the critical need to create after-school programming for our ‘ōpio, the OHA Board of Trustees on December 5, 2013 approved an allocation of \$75,000 to establish R.E.A.C.H. programs at Moloka‘i Middle School and Hāna High and Elementary School.

Therefore, OHA urges the Committee to **PASS** SB980 SD1 HD1. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



TO: Representative Roy M. Takumi, Chair  
Representative Takashi Ohno, Vice Chair  
Members, House Committee on Education

FROM: Eunice Tubera  
Eunice@hawaii.edu

HEARING: Wednesday, March 25, 2015, 2:00pm, in Conference Room 309

Testimony in Support of SB980 SD1, HD1, Relating to Afterschool Programs

I am Eunice Tubera a student at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify in support of SB908, which will provide funding for after-school programs for youths in public middle schools.

As a student I have interned for agencies directly involved with at-risk youths and/or the juvenile justice system. As indicated in the Bill, juveniles commit crimes during after school hours. I have assisted in counseling youths who have been arrested for the first time and have seen that tendency occur.

I feel that providing funding for after school programs for middle schools in Hawaii will be beneficial to the safety and well-being of juveniles and with the REACH program, they will be able to facilitate activities that will keep them out of trouble.

Thank you for your consideration in support of this bill and giving me the opportunity to testify in support of SB980