



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  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

**SENATE BILL NO. 980**  
Relating to Afterschool Programs

March 2, 2015

Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kouchi, and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Senate Bill No. 980. 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. Our intent is to establish a revolving fund for that purpose and we are working with the Department of the Attorney General on the appropriate language. 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*** SB 980 and respectfully urges the passage of this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



**TESTIMONY OF  
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE, 2015**

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**ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:**

S.B. NO. 980, RELATING TO AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS.

**BEFORE THE:**

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

**DATE:** Monday, March 2, 2015

**TIME:** 9:00 a.m.

**LOCATION:** State Capitol, Room 211

**TESTIFIER(S):** Russell A. Suzuki, Attorney General, or  
Blair Goto, Deputy Attorney General

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Chair Tokuda and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Attorney General provides the following comments.

The bill establishes the resources for enrichment, athletics, culture, and health (R.E.A.C.H.) program within the Office of Youth Services of the Department of Human Services and creates the R.E.A.C.H. program revolving fund “to supplement the costs of administering and operating the program.”

Section 37-62, Hawaii Revised Statutes, defines “revolving fund” to mean “a fund from which is paid the cost of goods and services rendered or furnished to or by a state agency and which is replenished through charges made for the goods or services or through transfers from other accounts or funds.” On page 7, line 11, the bill indicates that one of the sources of funding for the fund is to be “Legislative appropriations.” The fund to be created by this bill should be created as a revolving fund only if the intent is for the fund to be replenished by way of fees collected from after-school program participants and by way of transfers from other accounts or funds. If the intent is for the fund to be replenished with annual legislative appropriations, in addition to user fees and transfers, then the fund should be established as a special fund.

If the program is intended to operate through a revolving fund as a self-sustaining program by way of charges for services or through transfers from other accounts or funds, then proposed section 352D-C(b)(2), relating to legislative appropriations, should be deleted. In lieu of section 352D-C(b)(2), two separate sections should be added to the bill, as sections 4 and 5, to: (1) appropriate initial seed moneys into the fund to create and establish the program and (2) appropriate some or all of the seed moneys out of the fund to carry out the purposes of the Act.

The second section should also indicate that the sum appropriated is to be expended by the department of human services, office of youth services, for the purposes of this Act. The authority to adopt administrative rules under chapter 91 should also be included--perhaps as a new section 352D-B(b)(5) that a S.D. 1 would create--to establish the features of the program and the charges that are to be assessed for participation.

In addition, although the new section 352D-A that this bill would create establishes the R.E.A.C.H. program, the better practice would be to specify the purpose of the program in that section. Adding the sentence: "The purpose of the program is to provide support and funding for after-school programs in public middle and intermediate schools throughout the State." to page 5, line 20, after the end of the existing sentence would resolve any ambiguity.

We respectfully ask the Committee to pass this bill with the recommended amendments.



**SB980**  
**RELATING TO AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS**  
*Senate Committee on Ways and Means*

*March 2, 2015*

*9:00 a.m.*

*Room 211*

*The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** SB980, which would establish a Resources for Enrichment, Athletics, Culture and Health (REACH) Program within the Office of Youth Services.*

*The REACH 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 REACH programs at Moloka‘i Middle School and Hāna High and Elementary School.*

*Therefore, OHA urges the Committee to **PASS** SB980.*

*Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify on this measure.*



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

February 27, 2015

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

FROM: David Hipp, Executive Director 

SUBJECT: **SB 980 (SSCR22) – RELATING TO YOUTH**

Hearing: Monday, March 2, 2015  
State Capitol, Conference Room 211

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of SB 980, Relating to Youth, 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 SB 980, Relating to Youth. 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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Daryl Selman, President  
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American Civil Liberties Union of Hawaii  
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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

February 27, 2015

To: Senator Jill Tokuda, Chair  
And members of the Committee on Ways and Means

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

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

**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  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

**SENATE BILL NO. 980**  
Relating to Afterschool Programs

March 2, 2015

Dear Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kouchi, and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in *strong support* of Senate Bill No. 980.

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 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.