
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that, in Hawaii, over
2 fifty-four thousand children are left alone and unsupervised
3 until their parents return home from work each day. Yet,
4 according to the Afterschool Alliance, seventy-five per cent of
5 Hawaii parents agree that after-school programs can reduce the
6 likelihood that youth will engage in risky behavior and ninety-
7 three per cent support public funding of after-school programs.
8 The legislature further finds that while Hawaii continues to be
9 among the states with high participation rates, that rate has
10 been declining from thirty-five per cent in 2004, to twenty-
11 eight per cent in 2009, and twenty-six per cent in 2014.
12 Juvenile violence peaks in the after-school hours on school days
13 and in the evenings on non-school days. Sixty-five per cent of
14 violent crimes committed by juveniles occur on school days,
15 while nearly one-fifth of all juvenile violent crimes occur
16 between the hours of three and seven o'clock in the evening.
17 During fiscal year 2012-2013, the police made over three



1 thousand arrests of juveniles in Hawaii between the ages of
2 twelve and fourteen.

3 The legislature additionally finds that after-school
4 programming represents an upfront investment in Hawaii's youth
5 and that higher participation rates in other states may be due
6 to significant state funding dedicated specifically to expanding
7 the availability of after-school programs. According to the
8 superintendent's twenty-fifth annual report published in October
9 2015, Hawaii's dropout rate has reached nearly fifteen per cent
10 with a graduation rate of only around eighty-two per cent.
11 Nearly half of the high school dropouts reported that they
12 started high school ill-prepared. Research indicates that each
13 disconnected youth costs the taxpayers nearly \$14,000 per year,
14 which can continue and even increase in the future as some
15 disenfranchised youth become part of the juvenile justice court
16 systems. The stakes of disengagement are high. Once students
17 are disconnected, recruitment, enrollment, and retention into
18 programs require stronger and more persistent outreach, more
19 intensive services, and more long-term participation.

20 The legislature also finds that middle school years are a
21 pivotal time for the State's haumana, or students – a time when



1 they can succumb to peer pressure and significantly derail their
2 education and futures. Accordingly, participation in high-
3 quality after-school programs can lead to improved attendance,
4 better behavior, and better academic performance. Keeping the
5 State's youth engaged in positive after-school activities will
6 help to keep them on the path toward graduation and productive
7 futures. Currently, there are approximately twenty-six thousand
8 public middle and intermediate school students in Hawaii. Some
9 schools receive federal or state funding for after-school
10 programming; however, this funding is inconsistent or
11 unreliable.

12 The legislature further finds that, in March 2013, the
13 administration, through the lieutenant governor, established the
14 R.E.A.C.H. initiative, which stands for "resources for
15 enrichment, athletics, culture, and health," to develop a
16 framework and funding base for after-school programs for public
17 middle and intermediate school students throughout the State.
18 The legislature additionally finds that the establishment of a
19 state-subsidized after-school program for public middle and
20 intermediate school students is important to the future of
21 Hawaii's 'opio and the welfare of the State as a whole.



1 The legislature also finds that since its inception, the
2 R.E.A.C.H. initiative has provided over \$2,250,000 in funding
3 for after-school programs, including thirty-nine schools
4 throughout all counties in the State. The legislature further
5 finds that this funding has been instrumental during the
6 vulnerable middle school years and has manifested positive
7 impacts on the lives of these students inside and outside of the
8 classroom. The legislature finds, however, that a dedicated
9 program with reliable funding is necessary to provide continued
10 and uninterrupted services in middle and intermediate schools
11 statewide. The legislature finds that the success of the
12 program hinges on the ability to leverage available state,
13 federal, private, and in kind resources available to schools.
14 Though not intended to entirely fund the program, the ability to
15 assess fees to help subsidize the program and encourage
16 community involvement is an important piece in ensuring the
17 program's future and sustainability.

18 The legislature additionally finds that the department of
19 education's community engagement office establishes and
20 maintains working relationships and partnerships with a variety
21 of private agencies, parents, the public, and communities that



1 support schools. The community engagement office is responsible
2 for cultivating community schools, as its responsibilities
3 include corporate and community partnerships, community
4 children's councils, school community councils, A+ programs, the
5 Hawaii keiki initiative, and the R.E.A.C.H. initiative.

6 The purpose of this Act is to provide a standardized
7 framework and funding for after-school programs in public middle
8 and intermediate schools. Specifically, this Act:

- 9 (1) Establishes the R.E.A.C.H. program within the
10 department of education's community engagement office;
- 11 (2) Authorizes the community engagement office to award
12 funding for after-school programs and report to the
13 legislature on program implementation and use of
14 funds; and
- 15 (3) Establishes a special fund to receive fees and other
16 moneys to supplement the costs of administering and
17 operating the program.

18 SECTION 2. Chapter 302A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
19 amended by adding three new sections to be appropriately
20 designated and to read as follows:



1 "§302A-A Resources for enrichment, athletics, culture, and
2 health (R.E.A.C.H.) program; established. There is established
3 the resources for enrichment, athletics, culture, and health
4 (R.E.A.C.H.) program within the community engagement office of
5 the department.

6 §302A-B Resources for enrichment, athletics, culture, and
7 health (R.E.A.C.H.) program; implementation; fees. (a) The
8 community engagement office shall provide funding to establish,
9 support, or enhance after-school programs in public schools.
10 The community engagement office may enter into contracts with
11 middle schools, individuals, organizations, or other entities to
12 provide after-school programs to public middle schools.

13 (b) The community engagement office shall:

14 (1) Establish criteria, application, selection, and award
15 processes for funding after-school programs;

16 (2) Monitor the after-school programs within each school;

17 (3) Conduct site evaluations for schools with after-school
18 programs funded under the R.E.A.C.H. program;

19 (4) Ensure each after-school program meets contractual
20 expectations; and



1 (5) Report annually to the legislature on the
 2 implementation of programs and use of funds under the
 3 R.E.A.C.H. program, including but not limited to
 4 information on grants awarded to provide services to
 5 public middle schools, current and future plans to
 6 assess or collect fees, and efforts to obtain non-
 7 state funding for the financial sustainability of the
 8 R.E.A.C.H. program.

9 (c) Pursuant to chapter 91, the community engagement
 10 office may establish program requirements and participation fees
 11 or other charges to be assessed to each student for the cost of
 12 administering and operating the R.E.A.C.H. program. The
 13 revenues from the collected fees shall be deposited into the
 14 R.E.A.C.H. program special fund established in section 302A-C to
 15 be used to supplement the costs of administering and operating
 16 the program.

17 (d) The R.E.A.C.H. program shall be run by a program
 18 specialist who shall be appointed by the governor without regard
 19 to section 26-34 and shall be exempt from chapter 76.

20 §302A-C Resources for enrichment, athletics, culture, and
 21 health (R.E.A.C.H.) program special fund. (a) There is



1 established the R.E.A.C.H. program special fund to be
2 administered by the community engagement office.

3 (b) The R.E.A.C.H. program special fund shall consist of:

4 (1) Fees collected by the community engagement office for
5 administering and operating the R.E.A.C.H. program,
6 and the provision of program services;

7 (2) Legislative appropriations;

8 (3) All interest earned on the deposit or investment of
9 moneys in the R.E.A.C.H. program special fund; and

10 (4) Any other moneys made available to the R.E.A.C.H.
11 program special fund from any other sources.

12 (c) All moneys in the R.E.A.C.H. program special fund
13 shall be used to supplement the costs of administering and
14 operating the R.E.A.C.H. program. The community engagement
15 office may also use the moneys to:

16 (1) Hire personnel to implement, operate, and oversee
17 after-school programs;

18 (2) Promote after-school program activities;

19 (3) Conduct after-school education and demonstration
20 projects;

21 (4) Contract for services for after-school programs; and



1 (5) Fund associated expenses for after-school programs."

2 SECTION 3. Section 302A-101, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
3 amended by adding two new definitions to be appropriately
4 inserted and to read as follows:

5 "Public middle schools" means all academic and noncollege
6 type middle and intermediate schools established and maintained
7 by the department, including charter schools.

8 "R.E.A.C.H. program" means the resources for enrichment,
9 athletics, culture, and health program established pursuant to
10 section 302A-A."

11 SECTION 4. In codifying the new sections added by section
12 2 of this Act, the revisor of statutes shall substitute
13 appropriate section numbers for the letters used in designating
14 the new sections in this Act.

15 SECTION 5. New statutory material is underscored.

16 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

17



Report Title:

After-school Programs; Resources for Enrichment, Athletics, Culture, and Health Program; Community Engagement Office; R.E.A.C.H. Program Special Fund

Description:

Establishes the R.E.A.C.H (resources for enrichment, athletics, culture, and health) program in the department of education's community engagement office to provide a standardized framework and funding for after-school programs in public middle and intermediate schools. Requires the community engagement office to report to the legislature. Establishes that the R.E.A.C.H. program will be run by a program specialist to be appointed by the governor. Establishes a special fund to receive fees and other moneys to supplement the costs of administering and operating the R.E.A.C.H. program. (SD1)

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