

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
P. O. Box 339  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

February 7, 2020

TO: The Honorable Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

FROM: Pankaj Bhanot, Director

SUBJECT: **SB 2063 SD1 – RELATING TO AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS**

Hearing: February 11, 2020, 10:40 a.m.  
Conference Room 211, State Capitol

**DEPARTMENT’S POSITION:** The Department of Human Services (DHS) appreciates the intent of the measure and provides comments.

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of the bill is to establish the Hawaii After-School Program for Youth within the Department of Education community engagement branch to provide after school programs for public school and public charter school children in grades six through eight. Appropriates funds.

DHS regulates programs that are operating as child care facilities, including programs for children that are in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade. If the after-school programs as proposed are providing care, which is defined by section 346-151, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), as “... those situations where a person or organization has agreed to assume and has been entrusted with the responsibility for the child's supervision, development, safety, and protection apart from the parent or guardian,” then the program may be operating a child care facility, which is defined as “a place maintained by any individual, organization, or agency for the purpose of providing care for children with or without charging a fee at any time. It includes a family child care home, group child care home, and group child care center.”

If the proposed after-school program operated by a private provider is not exempt

from licensure by DHS, as allowed under section 346-154(a), HRS, then the private provider will also need to be licensed by DHS as a child care facility when the after-school program is caring for children attending elementary schools.

If the DOE will be responsible for licensing or certifying the after-school program directly, then the proposed program would not need to be licensed by DHS, in accordance with section 346-152(a) (3), HRS.

Additionally, DHS currently has a contract with the DOE to fund the A+ Program services with Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funding for families that meet Purpose Two of TANF, to end the dependence of low-income employed families by promoting job preparation, work, and marriage. The Department claims this expenditure, the A+ subsidies, on behalf of the State towards the State's TANF Maintenance of Effort (MOE) requirement in accordance with 45 Code of Federal Regulations section 263.1. Eligibility screening is required to ensure State TANF MOE claims are limited to expenditures incurred for TANF-eligible families.

DHS also contracts with the DOE for the Uniting Peer Learning, Integrating New Knowledge (UPLINK) Program. UPLINK is an existing after-school program for intermediate and middle school students in grades 6, 7, and 8. The State Fiscal Year 2019 funding for the UPLINK Program, totaling \$3,171,000 in Federal TANF funds, is provided by DHS and administered by the DOE through an agreement established in 2006. Beginning school year 2018-2019, 30 out of 53 (56%) intermediate and middle schools provide UPLINK.

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



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
P.O. BOX 2360  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

**Date:** 02/11/2020  
**Time:** 10:40 AM  
**Location:** 211  
**Committee:** Senate Ways and Means

**Department:** Education

**Person Testifying:** Dr. Christina M. Kishimoto, Superintendent of Education

**Title of Bill:** SB 2063, SD1 RELATING TO AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS.

**Purpose of Bill:** Establishes the Hawaii After-School Program for Youth within the Department of Education to provide after school programs for public school and public charter school children in grades six through eight. Establishes the Hawaii After-School Program for Youth Special Fund. Appropriates funds. (SD1)

**Department's Position:**

The Department of Education (Department) supports SB 2063, SD 1 related to establishing and appropriating funds for the Hawaii After-School Program for Youth within the Department of Education Community Engagement Branch to provide after school programs for children in grades six through eight.

The Department recognizes the increased demand for quality out-of-school time programs by working families and high-need families. The existing resources that currently fund the out-of-school time initiatives administered by The Department are not sufficient. Additional funding is needed to support quality care and learning after school We need to support working families and their students by providing a safe environment for students to go when school is not in session, increase student outcomes, and prevent risky behaviors. The most successful out-of-school time programs connect the academics of the regular school day with the out-of-school time space, where learning and student growth continues, students are provided a variety of academic and enrichment programming to discover new interests and develop critical soft skills needed for post high school endeavors.

In addition, the Department seeks to establish a special fund to pool afterschool funding sources such as federal grants, private entities, nonprofit organizations, and the collection of fees from families who have the means to or desire to contribute to programming opportunities offered during out-of-school time.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 2063, SD 1.

The Hawai'i State Department of Education is committed to delivering on our promises to students, providing an equitable, excellent, and innovative learning environment in every school to engage and elevate our communities. This is achieved through targeted work around three impact strategies: school design, student voice, and teacher collaboration. Detailed information is available at [www.hawaiipublicschools.org](http://www.hawaiipublicschools.org).

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



CRAIG K. HIRAI  
DIRECTOR

ROBERT YU  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM  
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND  
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE**  
P.O. BOX 150  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0150

ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE  
BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND  
MANAGEMENT DIVISION  
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION  
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT (OFAM)

**WRITTEN ONLY**  
TESTIMONY BY CRAIG K. HIRAI  
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE  
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS  
ON  
SENATE BILL NO. 2063, S.D. 1

**February 11, 2020**  
**10:40 a.m.**  
**Room 211**

RELATING TO AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS

The department offers comments on the creation of the Hawai'i After-School Program for Youth Special Fund (HASPYSF).

Senate Bill (S.B.) No. 2063, S.D. 1, establishes the Hawai'i After-School Program for Youth within the Department of Education's Community Engagement Branch to provide after-school programs for children in grades six through eight; and the HASPYSF. The measure appropriates an unspecified sum of general funds for deposit into the special fund for FY 21, and the special fund would generate revenues through legislative appropriations and fees.

As a matter of general policy, the department does not support the creation of any special fund that does not meet the requirements of Section 37-52.3, HRS. Special funds should: 1) serve a need as demonstrated by the purpose, scope of work, and an explanation why the program cannot be implemented successfully under the general fund appropriation process; 2) reflect a clear nexus between the benefits sought and charges made upon the users or beneficiaries or a clear link between the program and

the sources of revenue; 3) provide an appropriate means of financing for the program or activity; and 4) demonstrate the capacity to be financially self-sustaining. In regards to S.B. No. 2063, S.D. 1, it is difficult to determine whether the proposed special fund would be self-sustaining or why the program cannot be implemented under the general fund appropriation process.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

# Hawai'i Afterschool Alliance

1776 University Avenue, WA1-102  
Honolulu, HI 96822



February 6, 2020

Committee on Ways and Means  
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

Conference Room 211

Re: Support of SB 2063, SD1: RELATING TO AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS.

Dear Chair Dela Cruz and Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Committee Members:

The Hawai'i Afterschool Alliance supports Senate Bill 2063, SD1, which seeks to establish the Hawai'i After-School Program for Youth within the Department of Education community engagement branch to provide after school programs for children in grades six through eight.

The State of Hawai'i, twenty-eighth legislature, 2016, requested the Hawai'i Department of Education (HIDOE) to convene a working group to review after-school programs in Hawai'i's public middle and intermediate schools. This working group, formed by experts in the field, submitted its finding and recommendations to the Legislature. The group came to the conclusion that there is an immediate need to increase the funding for out-of-school programs in the state of Hawai'i to provide services to all the children and youth that need and/or would like to participate in program. Out-of-school programs work as a safety net to support students' success by creating a safe environment where they can thrive. The group also highlighted the importance of focusing on transportation, on athletics and on accommodation for students with special needs. Transportation is needed to grant the students safe return home when the out-of-school program ends. The group also included athletics (intramural, extramural and interscholastic) as an important component of the development of the out-of-school programs. The document produced by the group also emphasized that the out-of-school programs have enough resources and capacity to serve and support students with special needs.

In conclusion, the Hawai'i Afterschool Alliance supports SB 2063, SD1 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 out-of-school programs. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Paula Adams  
Executive Director  
Hawai'i Afterschool Alliance  
808-956-6515  
hawaiiafterschool@gmail.com  
www.hawaiiafterschoolalliance.org



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February 9, 2020

Committee on Ways and Means  
Senator Donovan M. Del Cruz, Chair  
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

Conference Room 211

Re: Support of SB 2063, SD1: Relating to After-School Programs

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith Agaran and Committee Members:

After-School All-Stars Hawaii would like to express its support for Senate Bill 2063, which seeks to establish the Hawaii After-School Program for Youth with the Department of Education to provide after school programs for public school and public charter school children in grades six through eight and to the establishment of the Hawaii After-School Program for Youth Special Fund.

Rather than concentrate on the extensive, well-documented and undeniable need for after-school programming, especially for socio-economically disadvantaged middle/intermediate school students, After-School All-Stars Hawaii would like to draw attention to the positive outcomes that quality after-school programming can lead to. As a whole, the over 2200 middle and intermediate school students, who took part in After-School All-Stars programs, throughout Oahu and Hawaii Island, last year, performed better academically and were less likely to be chronically absent than students who did not attend.

In addition students attending after-school programs are provided with opportunities that build character, self-esteem and prevents risky behaviors through a variety of educational, enrichment and athletic activities. After-school programs work as a safety net to support students' success by creating a safe environment where they can thrive and become conscientious and good citizens. Last year, ASAS middle and intermediate school students carried out 3930 hours of service learning, these are the kind of youth our community needs, and that quality after-school programming can help to develop, in partnership with our schools.

After-School All-Stars Hawaii urges you to please pass this bill so that students have the support they need to participate in high quality after-school programs. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Paula Fitzell".

Paula Fitzell  
President/CEO

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Telephone: 808 926-1530  
Contact@HEECoalition.org

Committee on Ways and Means  
Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair  
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

February 11, 2020

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee,

This testimony is submitted **in support for SB2063 SD1**, establishing the Hawaii After-School Program for Youth within the Department of Education to provide after school programs for public school and public charter school children in grades six through eight.

HE'E supports a dedicated After-School Program for Youth in the Community Engagement Branch (CEB) of the Department of Education. CEB already administers and manages the accountability of a number of out-of-school time initiatives so it makes sense that this dedicated program is placed in this branch.

Afterschool programs can provide this structure as well as be a safe place where teens can build confidence. Studies show that afterschool programs can contribute to higher grades and test scores, better attendance records, lower drop-out rates and an increase in positive attitudes and behaviors.<sup>1</sup> After school programs can also have benefits to families including better connection between parents, children and communities, and improved relationships between parents and children.<sup>2</sup>

Hui for Excellence in Education, or "HE'E," promotes a child-centered and strength-based public education system in which families, communities and schools are valued and empowered to help every student succeed. HE'E works to bring diverse stakeholders together to harness collective energy, share resources, and identify opportunities for progressive action in education.

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

Sincerely,

Cheri Nakamura  
HE'E Coalition Director

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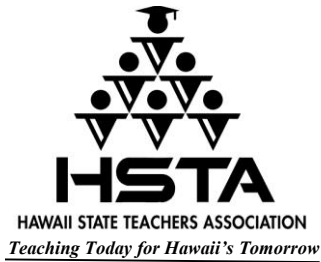
<sup>1</sup> Decker, L. E., et al. (2000). *Engaging families & communities, pathways to educational success*. Boca Raton, FL: National Community Educational Association, Florida Atlantic University.

<sup>2</sup> Harris, E. & Wimer, C. (2004, April). *Engaging with families in out-of-school time learning, No. 4*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard Family Research Project.



Academy 21  
After-School All-Stars Hawai'i  
Alliance for Place Based Learning  
\*Castle Complex Community Council  
\*Castle-Kahuku Principal and CAS  
\*Education Institute of Hawai'i  
\*Faith Action for Community Equity  
Fresh Leadership LLC  
Girl Scouts Hawaii  
Harold K.L. Castle Foundation  
\*HawaiiKidsCAN  
\*Hawai'i Afterschool Alliance  
\*Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice  
\*Hawai'i Association of School Psychologists  
Hawai'i Athletic League of Scholars  
\*Hawai'i Children's Action Network  
Hawai'i Education Association  
Hawai'i Nutrition and Physical Activity Coalition  
\* Hawai'i 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  
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  
Native Hawaiian Education Council  
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.*



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Wilbert Holck  
Executive Director

## TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAY & MEANS

RE: SB 2063, SD1 - RELATING AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2020

COREY ROSENLEE, PRESIDENT  
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Chair Dela Cruz, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association **supports SB 2063, SD1** relating to after-school programs. This bill would establish the Hawai'i After-School program for youth within the Department of Education community engagement branch to provide after school programs for children for grades sixth through eighth.

This bill would establish more after school programs for our middle school students. This is an age when students need safe, enjoyable activities after the school day is finished, but currently have a limited number of after-school activities available to them. We also know that many of their parents and guardians work two to three jobs that run late, and they may not be able to be home for their children until later. Furthermore, seventy-two per cent of parents surveyed in Hawaii agree that afterschool programs help working parents to keep their jobs. After school programs are not only important for homework help, but they offer extracurricular activities and social activities that benefit our students after school. HSTA recognizes that there are over 1,355 students who are homeless across the state that would also benefit from after school programs for their children in middle school. Homeless students have a unique set of needs than their housed peers and these after school programs would be greatly beneficial for them as well.

More after school programs would help ensure that students who are in middle school are able to thrive and get the most out of their educational career and allow their parents to work and not worry about their children as their children will be in a safe, enjoyable after school program until they can come home.

To prepare students to become members of the modern workforce, the Hawaii State Teachers Association asks your committee to **support** this bill.



**TO:** Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

**FROM:** Ryan Kusumoto, President & CEO of Parents And Children Together (PACT)

**DATE/LOCATION:** Tuesday, February 11, 2020; 10:40 a.m., Conference Room 211

**RE: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2063 SD 1 RELATING TO EDUCATION**

**We ask you to support SB 2063 which seeks to establish the Hawaii After-School Program for Youth within the Department of Education to provide after school programs for public school and public charter school children in grades six through eight and establishes the Hawaii After-School Program for Youth Special Fund.** We thank the legislature for prioritizing our keiki and recognizing the importance of providing positive, engaging options for out-of-school time programming as an extension of our public education system. These programs support the overall health of our keiki and our communities and can help to reduce future public costs associated with welfare, juvenile/adult incarceration, rehabilitation and healthcare. Participation in afterschool programs provide a wide range of immediate and long-term benefits, that include improved academic performance, reduced risky behavior, reduced drug use, improved health, and overall better social and economic well-being. It is particularly important during the middle and intermediate school years to have programs that involve students in positive after school activities. Children in this age group are increasingly responsible for caring for themselves and need healthy and productive programs to participate in during the afterschool hours; keeping them safe, engaged and out of trouble.

For Hawaii's 75% of working families with children, a majority agree that having after school programs allows them to keep their jobs and their peace of mind knowing that their children are cared for in an afterschool program. These programs ensure that students are kept in a safe environment, while being engaged in fun and educational activities that allows them to practice healthy values. It is of crucial importance that we invest in programs that dedicate their services to ensure a safe and happy environment for the growth and development of our keiki, especially for middle schoolers who don't currently have many afterschool program options. Allowing our children to express themselves in creative programs instills healthy values that they will carry with them for generations to come. Many students take comfort in their schools as their second homes, and it would be beneficial to support that view with the security of afterschool resources in place.

We encourage you to also remember that there is a large population of students who even when provided with out-of-school time programs at their home school choose to attend programs in their

home neighborhoods. Parents And Children Together currently provides afterschool programming in the Puuwai Momi (Aiea) and Kuhio Park Terrace (Kalihi) communities. Both programs are located in public housing complexes and serve over 500 students annually. Our afterschool drop in program has been serving children ages 5-18 in the Kalihi area for over 30 years and the anecdotal evidence collected over the years suggests the presence of our Teen Program has been one of the catalysts for change in our neighboring community, which is one of the largest public housing complexes in the nation and had a previous reputation of drug and gang violence. Our program staff note higher school attendance rates, higher rates of success in school and lower participation in high-risk behaviors for participants of our afterschool program. A reflection from one of our 12-year old program participants, a proud out-of-school time program champion:

*“The Teen Program helps me and lots of other kids. It is a safe place for us to go and we need to feel safe in our community and our parents need to know we are safe. It keeps me off the streets and outta trouble and lets me get involved in leadership programs, sports, and other activities. It puts my family at ease knowing that I’m not running the streets. Also, the program is offered to my mom who likes getting to know staff and other parents very much.*

*For me, I learned to be responsible from the program and now I’m responsible at home. And for another kid I know, who doesn’t attend the program anymore - now I see him smoking cigarettes and not going to school since he stopped coming.*

*I am asking you to support this program. I think it would be catastrophe for all of us who depend on this program [if it didn’t exist]. I think us kids would have too much time on our hands and fall into trouble. I would be sad and bored, and I think the other kids would fight more and do more negative things. We really depend on the teen program and wish for all kids to have the same opportunity.”*

Parents And Children Together is just one of the many organizations who offer prevention and intervention programs to ensure healthy environments for children and families in Hawaii. This is also a key component to our war on intergenerational poverty. Children in Hawaii, no matter what their circumstance, deserve safe places to learn, strong mentors and hope.

Founded in 1968, Parents And Children Together (PACT) is one of Hawaii’s not-for-profit organizations providing a wide array of innovative and educational social services to families in need. Assisting more than 15,000 people across the state annually, PACT helps families identify, address and successfully resolve challenges through its 18 programs. Among its services are: early education programs, domestic violence prevention and intervention programs, child abuse prevention and intervention programs, childhood sexual abuse supportive group services, child and adolescent behavioral health programs, sex trafficking intervention, poverty prevention and community building programs.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support of SB 2063 SD 1**, please contact me at (808) 847-3285 or [rkusumoto@pacthawaii.org](mailto:rkusumoto@pacthawaii.org) if you have any questions.



**LATE**

February 9, 2020

To: Chair Dela Cruz  
Vice Chair Keith-Agaran  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: **Strong Support for SB2063**

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means:

Thank you for your dedication to our keiki and for this opportunity to provide testimony in **strong support** of **SB2063**, which establishes the Hawaii After-School Program for Youth within the Department of Education's community engagement branch and provide after school programs for children in grades six through eight.

Kaho'omiki, the Hawai'i Council on Physical Activity and Nutrition, is a local non-profit that supports and encourages lifelong healthy lifestyles and closely works with organizations across the state to better the lives of youth.

There is extensive evidence showing the benefit of out-of-school time programs for youth social, emotional, and academic well-being. At the same time, more than 36,000 children are left alone each day during the hours after school in Hawai'i. This bill will make important strides towards our unified goal of improving outcomes for our future generations, especially during the after-school hours, that can have a significant impact on our communities.

On a personal level, I know of many Department of Education teachers who run afterschool enrichment, culture, and athletic programs for their students, despite not being compensated for the time, supported with program funding, or backed by DOE or school resources. They are sacrificing much—often times paying for supplies out of their own pocket—for the benefit of our youth and could greatly benefit from this bill.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of **SB2063**.

Sincerely,

Colby Takeda  
President, Kaho'omiki

**LATE**

**SB-2063-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/10/2020 11:31:32 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/11/2020 10:40:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b>                          | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|--|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Priscilla Arakawa   | Testifying for Aliamanu Middle School UPLINK | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

As a new coordinator of Aliamanu Middle School's Afterschool UPLINK program, I see the value of an afterschool program for keeping students from being at risk to potentially destructive influences and habits. Students are looking for ways to be connected with their peers in a less structured setting (than the rigor of school schedules) where they can be safe yet free to engage with each other doing things they enjoy together. Sometimes their home lives are chaotic and depressing or discouraging so they seek the approvals and attention of their peers and favorite teachers/adults. Parents are often trying to hold down stressful jobs and unable to return to the responsible parenting roles by the time a student's school day is over. Afterschool programs become the perfect next-to-home places that students can go while they await their parents return to their family world. The cost of providing that transitional place between the required school hours and home hours is priceless and often requires hours outside of the funds available to afford those programs well. Please continue to support funding for afterschool programs. Even to the community who does not have children between the K-8th grades, there is great benefit to have fun, safe places in our schools that our keiki can hang out in so they will not be at risk to trouble in our public communities/areas till parents can resume their responsibility to oversee them. Everyone wins except those looking for opportunities to influence these at-risk kids for harm/trouble. Thank you for considering supporting this bill for afternoon programs.

**SB-2063-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/9/2020 1:15:20 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/11/2020 10:40:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| De Austin           | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

I am submitting written testimony in favor of HB2064 and am humbly asking for your support for this measure.

I am a parent, an educator, and an employee of the UPLINK program at Maui Waena Intermediate School. I have seen the tremendous benefit that UPLINK provides for our students, by providing a safe environment for students to complete their homework and engage in positive, healthy, social activities with their peers.

Besides providing after school tutoring and homework support, which is of an extreme benefit for our students with working parents, our program at Maui Waena also emphasizes the 'soft skills' so sorely needed by youth today. There is personal face-to-face engagement with card and board games, team building with Robotics and team sports, as well as crafts. We also have an opportunity with culture and the arts, with our developing Choir program, our Art and Polynesian Clubs.

I strongly support this measure which will make it easier for our program and programs across the state of Hawaii to continue.

Respectfully,

Dezireen Austin



**LATE**

**SB-2063-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/10/2020 3:24:25 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/11/2020 10:40:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b>      | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|--------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Natalia Steinhorst-Soler | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

**Aloha mai kākou, my name is Natalia Steinhorts-Soler and I have been an educator for 17 years.**

**I have mostly taught middle school and special education in schools with high rates of socially and economically disadvantaged students in HIDOE and at the charter.**

**I want to thank senate member De La Cruz, Inouye, Kanuha, Keith-Agaran, Kidani, and Shimabukuro for introducing this bill and making it inclusive to all children of Hawai'i.**

**I wish to express my support for State Bill 2063 SD 1 and praise the authors of this bill for making the language inclusive to all school children in grades 6 to 8, including charter school students.**

**Adolescence is a vulnerable yet exciting time when students wish to develop a sense of choice and identity. Offering all students access to enrichment opportunities that can enhance their day, and are not limited to traditional academics will shape the experiences, interests, and choices they make. Having exposure and safe outlets for creativity, technical training, academic support, sports, technology, cultural, and discovery-based activities, as well as structured soft skills that are an essential part of college and career readiness, are great investments in our future.**

**Studies have shown that;**

- Afterschool programs can enhance children's academic achievement**
- Afterschool programs support children's social development and their relationships with adults and peers.**
- As well as supporting positive goals, afterschool programs can also lessen risky behaviors, such as drug, alcohol, and tobacco use, by providing young people with positive and healthy alternatives.**
- Afterschool programs may keep young people from committing crimes and from juvenile delinquency and may prevent them from being the victim of violent crime.**

**With the rising cost of living and the necessary income for the average household in Hawai'i which requires multiple sources of income, especially when the majority of jobs are in the service industry. Families are finding it difficult to find available time to spend with their keiki as well as funding access to enrichment and afterschool activities or lessons. Many times students at the middle school become caretakers themselves of younger siblings while adults work.**

**With the current amount of exposure and access students have at this age with technology, it is vital for them to have structured and guided positively focused safe spaces.**

**I have witnessed first hand the impact great after school programs can have on school attendance. I have also witnessed students at that age fall into risk patterns, none of them had any involvement in any enrichment or structured activities after school or outside from school.**

**I wish to express my support for state bill 2063 SD 1 and praise the authors of this bill for making the language inclusive to all school children in grades 6 to 8, including charter school students. I hope they continue to support all educational efforts for Hawai'i's children with equity, starting from the funding that is received from the legislature for all schools, including charter schools.**

**I want to thank senate member De La Cruz, Inouye, Kanuha, Keith-Agaran, Kidani, and Shimabukuro for introducing this bill and making it inclusive to all children of Hawai'i.**

**Mahalo to the Ways and Means Committee for the opportunity to speak on behalf of SB 2063 SD 1.**

## **Sources**

**[https://www.thirteen.org/edonline/concept2class/afterschool/index\\_sub3.html](https://www.thirteen.org/edonline/concept2class/afterschool/index_sub3.html)**