



Hawaii
Children's Action Network Speaks!
Building a unified voice for Hawaii's children

Hawai'i Children's Action Network Speaks! is a nonpartisan 501c4 nonprofit committed to advocating for children and their families. Our core issues are safety, health, and education.

To: House Committees on Education and on Water & Land

Re: **HCR 10 / HR 11 - Urging the Board of Education and Department of Education to support and implement afterschool programs to combat COVID-19 learning loss.**

Hawai'i State Capitol, Rooms 309 and 430

March 11, 2021, 2:00 PM

Dear Chairs Woodson and Tarnas, Vice Chairs Kapela and Branco, and committee members,

On behalf of Hawai'i Children's Action Network Speaks!, I am writing in SUPPORT of HCR 10 / HR 11. These resolutions urge the Board of Education and Department of Education to support and implement afterschool programs to combat COVID-19 learning loss.

With recent data showing Hawai'i's public school students suffering more learning loss during the pandemic than in previous school years,¹ it is crucial that our state do all it can to help our keiki catch up academically. One key way to do that is to make sure that afterschool programs are implemented and supported.

In fact, Hawai'i's students were the most prone to academic risks in the nation during the spring of 2020, according to an *Education Week* analysis,² with the largest disparity in weekly teacher interactions between more-educated and less-educated households. While the gap for the nation was about 8 percentage points, Hawai'i's gap was the largest in the nation, at nearly 54 percentage points.

Such wide gaps make afterschool programs even more important for our keiki. Experts project that it will take years for school systems to make up for pandemic learning loss. These resolutions would encourage important efforts to help our students catch up.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide this testimony. Please pass HCR 10 / HR 11.

Thank you,

Nicole Woo

Director, Research and Economic Policy

¹ <https://www.hpr2.org/post/hawaii-public-school-students-saw-more-learning-loss-during-pandemic-compared-other-years#stream/0>

² <https://www.edweek.org/policy-politics/coronavirus-learning-loss-risk-index-reveals-big-equity-problems/2020/09>



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Committee on Education
Representative Justin Woodson, Chair
Representative Jeanné Kapela, Vice Chair

Thursday, March 11, 2021
Conference Room 309 & 430

Re: Support of House Concurrent Resolution 10

Dear Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Kapela and members of the committee,

After-School All-Stars Hawaii supports HCR 10 "Urging the Board of Education and the Department of Education to Support and Implement Afterschool Programs to Combat COVID-19 Learning Loss."

The afterschool field is an essential part of our communities' response to the coronavirus pandemic, and programs will continue to play a critical role throughout the recovery. Afterschool programs are innovating to keep students safe and engaged in learning, helping essential workers continue to do their jobs, providing food for families in need and staying connected with caregivers and parents.

As we look ahead to summer and the 2021-22 school year, afterschool administrators and leaders stand ready to help children catch up and keep up, which includes ensuring all children and youth have access to learning opportunities and the supports they need to emerge from this crisis strong, resilient and hopeful.

While schools are closed or partially closed, and when they re-open, students need not only academic support, but also social and emotional support. They need help sustaining and rebuilding relationships, talking about their experiences and emotions, developing as leaders and agents of change, and re-engaging with their interests.

For all those reasons and more, afterschool programs are here to support our students and families to help them re-engage in learning while providing a safe environment to thrive.

In conclusion, After-School All-Stars Hawaii supports HCR 10 and respectfully urges the passage of this resolution so that students in Hawai'i have the support they need. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paula Fitzell". The signature is stylized with loops and flourishes.

Paula Fitzell
President/CEO
After-School All-Stars Hawaii



Committee on Education
Representative Justin Woodson, Chair
Representative Jeanne Kapela, Vice Chair

Committee on Water and Land
Representative David Tarnas, Chair
Representative Patrick Branco, Vice Chair

March 11, 2021

Dear Chairs Woodson and Tarnas, Vice Chairs Kapela and Branco, and Members of the Committee,

This testimony is submitted **in support for HCR10/HC11**, urging the BOE and DOE to support and implement afterschool programs to combat COVID-19 learning loss.

The data from the DOE Dashboard shows that learning loss among our students, particularly our high-needs students, is significant.¹ Students who are experiencing learning loss consist of students who are receiving a failing grade in English Language Arts (ELA) or math; students in elementary and middle school who are behind grade level; students in high school who are not on track to graduate; and students who are chronically absent. There are over 25,000 students who are receiving a failing grade in math and ELA, and over 20,000 and 19,000 elementary and middle school students, respectively, who are behind grade level in ELA and math. There are over 8,500 high school students who are not on track to graduate. There are over 27,000 of our high-needs students who are chronically absent.

Afterschool programs can help address students with learning loss but only if such programs are aligned and coordinated with a school's academic plan. We believe that a school should identify its students who are experiencing learning loss and design an afterschool program appropriate for them. There are many community organizations that provide afterschool services with whom the schools could partner. We recommend that the BOE and the DOE encourage coordination and collaboration between the schools and community organizations so that resources can be utilized effectively.

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

¹ <https://www.hawaiipublicschools.org/ConnectWithUs/MediaRoom/PressReleases/Pages/Return-to-Learn---Metrics.aspx>



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
*Teach for America
The Learning Coalition
US PACOM
University of Hawai'i College of Education

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

Hawai'i Afterschool Alliance

1776 University Avenue, WA1-102
Honolulu, HI 96822

Committee on Education
Representative Justin Woodson, Chair
Representative Jeanné Kapela, Vice Chair

Thursday, March 11, 2021
Conference Room 309 & 430

Re: Support of House Concurrent Resolution 10

Dear Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Kapela, and members of the committee,

The Hawai'i Afterschool Alliance supports HCR 10 "Urging the Board of Education and the Department of Education to Support and Implement Afterschool Programs to Combat COVID-19 Learning Loss."

The afterschool field is an essential part of our communities' response to the coronavirus pandemic, and programs will continue to play a critical role throughout recovery. Today, afterschool programs are innovating to keep kids safe and engaged in learning, help essential workers continue to do their jobs, provide food for families in need, and stay connected with caregivers and parents.

As we look ahead to summer and next school year, afterschool administrators and leaders stand ready to help children catch up and keep up, which includes ensuring all children and youth have access to learning opportunities and the supports they need to emerge from this crisis strong, resilient, and hopeful.

While schools are closed or partially closed, and when they re-open, students need not only academic support, but also social and emotional support. They need help sustaining and rebuilding relationships, talking about their experiences and emotions, developing as leaders and agents of change, and reengaging with their interests.

For all those reasons and more, afterschool programs are here to support our students and families to help them re-engage in learning while providing a safe environment to thrive.

In conclusion, the Hawai'i Afterschool Alliance supports HCR 10 and respectfully urges the passage of this resolution so that students in Hawai'i have the support they need. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

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

HCR-10

Submitted on: 3/10/2021 5:53:31 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/11/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Mulinix	Our Revolution Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Committee,

On behalf of Our Revolution Hawaii's 7,000 members and supporters, we are in STRONG SUPPORT of HCR10/HR11.

We strongly urge the Board of Education and Department of Education to support and implement afterschool programs to combat COVID-19 learning loss.

Please support and pass HCR10/HC11.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Dave Mulinix

Hawaii Statewide Community Organizer

Our Revolution Hawaii

HCR-10

Submitted on: 3/9/2021 4:51:49 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/11/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
cheryl B.	Individual	Comments	No

Comments:

Comments:

The first part of the HCR asking for after school programs I support. The second part" TO COMBAT COVID-19 LEARNING LOSS." I object to strongly. Therefore I am writing comments.

After school programs, clubs etc. are so essential for so many students. That being said, to stipulate " COMBAT COVID-19 LEARNING LOSS." is biased, prejudiced and will once again target a community that is already reeling from this pandemic. The words "learning loss" was determined by corporations to make money. " Learning loss" is determined by standardized tests, IReady and other such indicators. They were not designed to help children during a crises time. Who sets the standards for "learning loss"? Who will those students be? As stated on another bill, the issue is not learning loss it's the bias, inequitable resources and racism that are the sources of the challenges. UNTIL we truly look at them, nothing will change. During this past year, we have seen who gets resources, who pushes for schools to open, who has access to wireless etc. and we have seen who does not. You are going to make students go to after school or summer school because the system failed them? It's our loss, not theirs. We have yet to learn.

HCR-10

Submitted on: 3/9/2021 5:16:33 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/11/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
MaryAnn Omerod	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HCR10 - URGING THE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO SUPPORT AND IMPLEMENT AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS TO COMBAT COVID-19 LEARNING LOSS.

HCR-10

Submitted on: 3/10/2021 7:23:33 AM

Testimony for EDN on 3/11/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
D. Kaipo Hanakeawe	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Committee on Education

Representative Justin Woodson, Chair

Representative Jeanné Kapela, Vice Chair

Thursday, March 11, 2021

Conference Room 309 & 430

Re: Support of House Concurrent Resolution 10

Dear Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Kapela, and members of the committee,

As a private citizen, I support HCR 10 “Urging the Board of Education and the Department of Education to Support and Implement Afterschool Programs to Combat COVID-19 Learning Loss.”

The afterschool field is an essential part of our communities’ response to the coronavirus pandemic, and programs will continue to play a critical role throughout recovery. Today, afterschool programs are innovating to keep kids safe and engaged in learning, help essential workers continue to do their jobs, provide food for families in need, and stay connected with caregivers and parents.

As we look ahead to summer and next school year, afterschool administrators and leaders stand ready to help children catch up and keep up, which includes ensuring all children and youth have access to learning opportunities and the supports they need to emerge from this crisis strong, resilient, and hopeful.

While schools are closed or partially closed, and when they re-open, students need not only academic support, but also social and emotional support. They need help sustaining and rebuilding relationships, talking about their experiences and emotions, developing as leaders and agents of change, and reengaging with their interests.

For all those reasons and more, afterschool programs are here to support our students and families to help them re-engage in learning while providing a safe environment to thrive.

In conclusion, I support HCR 10 and respectfully urges the passage of this resolution so that students in Hawai'i have the support they need. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

HCR-10

Submitted on: 3/10/2021 7:26:54 AM

Testimony for EDN on 3/11/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dana Petteys	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Committee on Education

Representative Justin Woodson, Chair

Representative Jeanné Kapela, Vice Chair

Thursday, March 11, 2021

Conference Room 309 & 430

Re: Support of House Concurrent Resolution 10

Dear Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Kapela, and members of the committee,

I support HCR 10 “Urging the Board of Education and the Department of Education to Support and Implement Afterschool Programs to Combat COVID-19 Learning Loss.”

The afterschool field is an essential part of our communities’ response to the coronavirus pandemic, and programs will continue to play a critical role throughout recovery. Today, afterschool programs are innovating to keep kids safe and engaged in learning, help essential workers continue to do their jobs, provide food for families in need, and stay connected with caregivers and parents.

As we look ahead to summer and next school year, afterschool administrators and leaders stand ready to help children catch up and keep up, which includes ensuring all children and youth have access to learning opportunities and the supports they need to emerge from this crisis strong, resilient, and hopeful.

While schools are closed or partially closed, and when they re-open, students need not only academic support, but also social and emotional support. They need help sustaining and rebuilding relationships, talking about their experiences and emotions, developing as leaders and agents of change, and reengaging with their interests.

For all those reasons and more, afterschool programs are here to support our students and families to help them re-engage in learning while providing a safe environment to thrive.

In conclusion, I support HCR 10 and respectfully urges the passage of this resolution so that students in Hawai'i have the support they need. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Dana Petteys

Committee on Education
Representative Justin Woodson, Chair
Representative Jeanné Kapela, Vice Chair

Thursday, March 11, 2021
Conference Room 309 & 430

Re: Support of House Concurrent Resolution 10

Dear Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Kapela, and members of the committee,

I, Abigail Domen, supports HCR 10 “Urging the Board of Education and the Department of Education to Support and Implement Afterschool Programs to Combat COVID-19 Learning Loss.”

The afterschool field is an essential part of our communities’ response to the coronavirus pandemic, and programs will continue to play a critical role throughout recovery. These programs allow a space for children to continue learning and receive help where they may need it most. This is also an opportunity for caregivers and families to stay connected with their youth’s education and schooling.

As we look ahead to summer and next school year, afterschool facilitators are needed and are ready to help children catch up and keep up, which will ensure that our youth have the support that they need to emerge from this crisis strong. This past year has been hard on our youth educationally, socially, and emotionally.

While schools are closed or partially closed, and when they re-open, students need not only academic support, but also social and emotional support. They need help sustaining and rebuilding relationships, talking about their experiences and emotions, developing critical life skills, and finding their interests again.

For all those reasons and more, afterschool programs are needed to support our youth and families to help them re-engage in learning while providing a safe environment to thrive.

In conclusion, I support HCR 10 and respectfully urges the passage of this resolution so that youth and families in Hawai‘i have the support they need. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Abigail Domen

HCR-10

Submitted on: 3/10/2021 11:59:59 AM

Testimony for EDN on 3/11/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alice Luck	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Now is the time to invest in afterschool and summer learning programs as they will need additional staff and professional development, as well as more space and the ability to run full-day programming to most effectively support working parents and school districts' revised schedules. Decades of research show that afterschool programs inspire students to learn, help them do better in school, and prepare them for college and career

During these unparalleled times, OST programs have once again proven to be incredibly valuable to communities nationwide. We need to remember that learning does not just happen during school hours—afterschool programs can provide a safe space with added support and resources needed for all children to thrive in this new virtual learning world, as well as help parents return to work knowing that their children are being cared for.

Schools will directly benefit from the knowledge and experiences that afterschool and summer providers have gained while operating in the midst of the pandemic.

It's no secret that the COVID-19 pandemic is taking a disproportionate toll on the education of low-income students and people of color. Stories abound on the situation, especially when it comes to [remote instruction](#) and plans for [school re-opening](#). But even after the school day ends, the disparities persist.

[New data](#) from advocates in the after-school sector are illustrating the impact COVID-19 is having beyond the schoolhouse doors: Low-income students are far less likely to have access to after-school programs in person, compared with children and youths from higher-income families.

This data comes as huge questions persist about the pandemic's impact on after-school programs nationwide, which collectively serve millions of children and youths every year. Many providers are worried whether they can stay afloat financially.

HCR-10

Submitted on: 3/10/2021 12:49:16 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/11/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Matt Lannis	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

It is essentially to care for the whole keiki. This legislation will help our childrens education get back on track. Please pass this important bill.

HCR-10

Submitted on: 3/10/2021 1:21:45 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/11/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Erica Yamauchi	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of this bill to combat the COVID-19 learning losses suffered by our students during summer school and afterschool programs. We can't afford for our students to have lifelong learning gaps due to the pandemic. With programs like this, we can minimize the impact on their learning.

Thank you for your consideration.

HCR-10

Submitted on: 3/10/2021 5:42:52 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/11/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Susan Pcola_Davis	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill's intent to provide opportunities for students that have experienced learning loss during the COVID-19 pandemic for all students with indications of struggling to maintain grade level learning.

I offer comments and considerations for afterschool programs.

Current after school programs, both Kamaaina Kids and the YMCA are unaffordable. These may not be the structure to use to bring our students back to grade level.

Again, there must be a clear purpose and design for afterschool programs designed to decrease learning loss.

Funding earmarked for "tutors" during the summer months, needs to be funneled into these after school programs. However, afterschool isn't the only time to recover learning. Intervention during school hours is also a strategy to help our students get back on track.

Unfortunately, by the time this bill is passed, there will be one month of school left. Afterschool programs will be of no benefit for one month. These types of interventions will be obsolete by the time they are available.

Opportunities for this type of intervention could be the use of summer learning time. Afterschool programs will create opportunities during those out-of-school hours for all kids. Many students have suffered from the isolation and trauma that the epidemic caused due to school closures. Afterschool programs can support any child that needs to re-develop social and emotional skills.

The Board of Education and Department of Education are urged to support and implement afterschool programs as a strategy to combat COVID-19 learning loss regardless of economic hardships. Many families have moms and dads who lost their jobs and are struggling with "just unemployment funds." They may not have been economically disadvantaged before the pandemic, but now they are.

HCR-10

Submitted on: 3/10/2021 6:46:59 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/11/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Marissa Baptista	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Kapela, and members of the committee,

My name is Marissa Baptista and I am a parent advocate in Moanalua and I support HCR 10 “Urging the Board of Education and the Department of Education to Support and Implement Afterschool Programs to Combat COVID-19 Learning Loss.”

The afterschool field is an essential part of our communities’ response to the coronavirus pandemic, and programs will continue to play a critical role throughout recovery. Today, afterschool programs are innovating to keep kids safe and engaged in learning, help essential workers continue to do their jobs, provide food for families in need, and stay connected with caregivers and parents.

As we look ahead to summer and next school year, afterschool administrators and leaders stand ready to help children catch up and keep up, which includes ensuring all children and youth have access to learning opportunities and the supports they need to emerge from this crisis strong, resilient, and hopeful.

While schools are closed or partially closed, and when they re-open, students need not only academic support, but also social and emotional support. They need help sustaining and rebuilding relationships, talking about their experiences and emotions, developing as leaders and agents of change, and reengaging with their interests.

For all those reasons and more, afterschool programs are here to support our students and families to help them re-engage in learning while providing a safe environment to thrive.

In conclusion, I support HCR 10 and respectfully urges the passage of this resolution so that students in Hawai’i have the support they need. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Marissa Baptista