



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,<sup>1</sup> 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,<sup>2</sup> 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

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

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

**HR-11**

Submitted on: 3/10/2021 7:26:29 AM

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

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| 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 Resolution 11**

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

**As a private citizen, I support HR 11 “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.**

**HR-11**

Submitted on: 3/10/2021 8:48:23 AM

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

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

Comments:

**I support HR11 and respectfully urge the passage of this resolution so that students in Hawai'i have the support they need. The pandemic has exacerbated existing stressors on youth and families in our communities, and we are already seeing the growing need for services and support for our most vulnerable children and families. The afterschool field creates the right learning conditions to help children and youth learn and thrive by addressing their health, social and emotional well-being. The coordination of relationships and resources are needed, now more than ever. Mahalo for the chance to submit this testimony.**

**HR-11**

Submitted on: 3/10/2021 5:44:03 PM

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

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| 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.