



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

Date: 02/23/2022

Time: 10:05 AM

Location: CR 211 & Videoconference

Committee: Senate Ways and Means

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Keith T. Hayashi, Interim Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: SB 2564, SD1 RELATING TO AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS.

Purpose of Bill: Appropriates funds for the Department of Education's Resources for Enrichment, Athletics, Culture, and Health Program to match federal dollars that the State receives for the 21st Century Community Learning Center. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD1)

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) supports SB 2564, SD1 and respectfully offers comments on this measure.

The Department's Community Engagement Branch is responsible for the administration, compliance, and monitoring of quality after-school programs funded through state and federal programs, including the Nita M. Lowey 21st Century Community Learning Centers, After-school Plus, UPLINK, R.E.A.C.H, and Out-of-School Time American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief programs. The Department agrees the demand for quality after-school programs far exceeds the current supply and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has added to the need. Furthermore, quality programs accessible to middle and intermediate students are critical to their development. The additional appropriated funds could be used to expand the existing partnerships, collaboration, and efforts to support Hawaii's youth in the out-of-school time hours to increase access and positive outcomes for Hawaii youth.

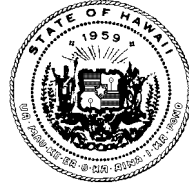
The Department is concerned about its capacity to implement such a large-scale increase in the size of the R.E.A.C.H. program given its current staffing and commitments to its other federal and state-funded after-school programs. For example, existing federal funds (i.e., UPLINK) are accessible and prioritized for Title I-designated middle and intermediate schools. UPLINK currently funds 34 schools across the state

and through the Memorandum of Understanding for UPLINK with the Department of Human Services, the Department has continued to expand the number of schools in the program.

The Department appreciates the appropriation to expand its after-school programs and asks that costs for program administration, implementation, monitoring and compliance, technical assistance, and evaluation also be considered and that any new initiatives do not displace the Department's priority to stabilize and restore funding for positions and basic services that were reduced for Fiscal Year 2023 due to the impact of COVID-19.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on SB 2564, SD1.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



CATHY BETTS
DIRECTOR

JOSEPH CAMPOS II
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

February 22, 2022

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

FROM: Cathy Betts, Director

SUBJECT: SB 2564 SD1 – RELATING TO AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS

HEARING: Wednesday, February 23, 2022, 10:05 am
Via Videoconference, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports this measure as it will ensure after-school programs continue to be available to students. DHS defers to the Department of Education (DOE). DHS respectfully requests that any appropriation not replace or reduce priorities identified in the executive budget.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this measure is to appropriate funds for the Department of Education's Resources for Enrichment, Athletics, Culture, and Health (REACH) program to match federal dollars that the State receives for the 21st Century Community Learning Center. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD1)¹ SD1 amended this measure by

- (1) Inserting a bland appropriation amount; and
- (2) Inserting an effective date of July 1, 2050, to encourage further discussion.

The REACH program is an after-school program for the DOE that supports middle and intermediate school students with their academics, improves their attendance and behaviors, and enriches their learning with various extra-curricular activities.

¹ The Department of Human Services submitted similar testimony to the previous committee though it was not reflected in STAND. COM. REP. NO. 2369.

DHS supports after-school programs such as REACH and the 21st Century Community Learning Center because they provide students with safe and structured environments that help to reduce risky behaviors, promote social and emotional learning, and support working families. The appropriation will ensure the REACH program will continue to be available to DOE middle and intermediate school students.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



LATE

CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR

GLORIA CHANG
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. 2564, S.D. 1

February 23, 2022
10:05 a.m.
Room 211 and Videoconference

RELATING TO AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS

The Department of Budget and Finance (B&F) offers comments on this bill.

Senate Bill No. 2564, S.D. 1, appropriates an unspecified amount of general funds for FY 23 for the Department of Education's Resources for Enrichment, Athletics, Culture, and Health program to match federal dollars that the State receives for the 21st Century Community Learning Center.

B&F notes that, with respect to the general fund appropriation in this bill, the federal Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act requires that states receiving Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) II funds and Governor's Emergency Education Relief II funds must maintain state support for:

- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and
- Higher education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

Further, the federal American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act requires that states receiving ARP ESSER funds must maintain state support for:

- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and
- Higher education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

The U.S. Department of Education has issued rules governing how these maintenance of effort (MOE) requirements are to be administered. B&F will be working with the money committees of the Legislature to ensure that the State of Hawai'i complies with these ESSER MOE requirements.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

SB-2564-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2022 8:23:37 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Michael Ching, MD, MPH	Testifying for American Academy of Pediatrics, Hawaii Chapter	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Agaran, and membres of the Committee on Ways and Means :

The American Academy of Pediatrics, Hawaii Chapter supports SB2564 relating to after school programs. We see in our practices the significant impact that after school programs have on children. They provide opportunities for social interaction, homework help, and physical activity. After school programs are also necessary to help many working families with child care. This program would strengthen after school programs by appropriating matching funds for federal dollars in the 21st Century Community Learning Center. We urge passage of this legislation and are grateful for the opportunity to testify.

Michael Ching, MD, MPH, FAAP
President
American Academy of Pediatrics, Hawaii Chapter

841 Bishop St., Suite 301
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813



Telephone: 808 926-1530
Contact@HEECoalition.org

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

February 23, 2022

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

We support SB 2564 SD1, which appropriates funds for the department of education's resources for enrichment, athletics, culture, and health program to match federal dollars that the State receives for the 21st Century Community Learning Center.

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.¹ After school programs can also have benefits to families including better connection between parents, children and communities, and improved relationships between parents and children.²

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

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

² 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
American Civil Liberties Union
Alliance for Place Based Learning
*Castle Complex Community Council
Coalition for Children with Special Needs
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 Nutrition and Physical Activity Coalition
Hawai'i Scholars for Education and Social Justice
* Hawai'i State PTSA
Hawai'i State Student Council
Hawai'i State Teachers Association
Hawai'i P-20
Hawai'i 3Rs
*Hawai'i Youth Service
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
Special Education Provider Alliance
*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.*

Date: February 14, 2022

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

From: Early Childhood Action Strategy

Re: **Support for SB2564, Relating to AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS**

Early Childhood Action Strategy (ECAS) is a statewide cross-sector collaborative designed to improve the system of care for Hawai'i's youngest children and their families. ECAS partners work to align priorities for children prenatal to age eight, streamline services, maximize resources, and improve programs to support our youngest keiki.

ECAS supports passage of SB2564, which would expand the reach and quality of afterschool programs by increasing the funding for these programs.

Afterschool is an essential part of our communities' response to the coronavirus pandemic, and programs will continue to play a critical role throughout recovery. For years, afterschool programs have kept kids safe, inspired them to learn, and offered parents peace of mind that their children are constructively engaged in the hours between the end of the school day and when parents return from work.

Yet, in Hawai'i, the America After 3PM 2020 report found that for every child in an afterschool program, 2 are waiting to get in, with 35,067 children alone and unsupervised after school.

In 2016, the State of Hawai'i requested the Hawai'i Department of Education (HIDOE) to convene a working group to review afterschool programs in Hawai'i's public middle and intermediate schools and make 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 to provide services to all the children and youth that need and/or would like to participate in a program.

Out-of-school programs work as a safety net to support students' success by creating a safe environment where they can thrive. ECAS respectfully urges the passage of **SB2564** so that students have the support they need during the out-of-school time hours.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of this bill.



1200 Ala Kapuna Street ♦ Honolulu, Hawaii 96819
Tel: (808) 833-2711 ♦ Fax: (808) 839-7106 ♦ Web: www.hsta.org

Osa Tui, Jr.
President

Logan Okita.
Vice President

Lisa Morrison
Secretary-Treasurer

Wilbert Holck
Executive Director

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

RE: SB 2564, SD1 - RELATING TO AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2022

OSA TUI, JR., PRESIDENT
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Chair Dela Cruz, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association **supports SB 2564, SD1**, relating to after-school programs. This bill will appropriate more than \$6 million to the HIDEOE funding resources for enrichment, athletics, culture, and health (REACH) program and will match federal dollars received for the 21st Century Community Learning Center.

After-school programs provide important learning and enrichment opportunities for potentially thousands of our K-12 students across the islands. These after-school programs also allow parents to maintain their employment. Many of their parents and guardians work 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 Hawai'i 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.

The REACH program helps to ensure that students, including those who may not have adult supervision after school due to work schedules, are able to thrive and get the most out of their educational career. That the appropriation in this bill is a match to federal dollars is significant. We should not be leaving any money on the table when it comes to our keiki.

To provide this appropriation to match federal dollars to fund the REACH program in Hawai'i, the Hawaii State Teachers Association asks your committee to **support this bill.**



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

Hawaii 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: Senator Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Keith Agaran, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: **SB 2564 SD1-relating to after-school programs**
10:05 AM, February 23, 2022

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and committee members,

On behalf of Hawaii Children's Action Network Speaks!, I am writing in support of SB 2564 SD1, relating to after-school programs.

Afterschool programming is incredibly important to working families. Having a safe, nurturing place to go afterschool is what allows their parents to work. But afterschool programs are too limited to serve all the families needing help. For some families, this means they must choose between shortening work hours (if they can) or leaving their child unsupervised. For middle and intermediate school students, programs like R.E.A.C.H (resources for enrichment, athletics, culture, and health), help provide structured activities during out of school time.

More funding for the R.E.A.C.H program will help to expand comprehensive, high quality afterschool offerings and meet the growing needs of our students and families. For these reasons, I respectfully request the committee vote favorably on SB 2564.

Thank you,
Kathleen Algire
Director of Early Learning and Health Policy

Hawai'i Afterschool Alliance

1776 University Avenue, WA1-102
Honolulu, HI 96822

Ways and Means Committee

Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair

Senator Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair



February 23, 2022

Conference Room 211

RE: Support of SB2564 Relating to After-School Programs

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

The Hawai'i Afterschool Alliance supports SB2564 to appropriate funds for the Department of Education's Resources for Enrichment, Athletics, Culture, and Health (REACH) program to match federal dollars that the State receives for the 21st Century Community Learning Centers.

Afterschool is an essential part of our communities' response to the coronavirus pandemic, and programs will continue to play a critical role throughout recovery. Yet, in Hawai'i, the America After 3PM 2020 report found that for every child in an afterschool program, 2 are waiting to get in, with 35,067 children alone and unsupervised after school.

According to the SY20-21 Strive HI data, 23,600 and 16,400 middle school students were below proficiency in math and language arts respectively. Increasing REACH funding from \$500,000 (current funding levels) to \$6,123,398 (matching the 21st Century Community Learning Center federal funding Hawai'i receives) will help to expand afterschool to 6,000 more students who are in need of academic tutoring, enrichment, and social-emotional supports to succeed in school.

Afterschool is Evidence-Based and Proven Effective

Working together, schools, afterschool programs, and community partners are better positioned to accelerate students' academic, social, and emotional learning, especially students who have been historically underserved and those with special needs.

Comprehensive afterschool programs apply evidence based practices to support the needs of youth, families, and communities. Decades of data show these programs:

- Accelerate students' learning gains and improve their reading and math skills
- Engage youth in learning and boost school attendance
- Support social and emotional development
- Prevent youth violence
- Boost on-time graduation

More funding for the REACH program will help to expand comprehensive, high quality afterschool offerings and meet the growing needs of our students and families.

The Hawai'i Afterschool Alliance respectfully urges the passage of this bill and appropriation of \$6,123,398 so that students have the support they need during the out-of-school time hours. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

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



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: February 23, 2022; 10:05 a.m., Conference Room 211/Videoconference

RE: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2564 SD 1 RELATING TO AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS

We ask you to support SB 2564 which appropriates funds for the department of education's resources for enrichment, athletics, culture, and health program to match federal dollars that the State receives for the 21st Century Community Learning Center. 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, particularly as we attempt to fill some of the gaps exacerbated by the pandemic. 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.

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 due to the fact that students have experienced learning loss and social challenges, and afterschool program options have dwindled during the pandemic. Allowing our children to engage in and express themselves in through positive, supplemental programming 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 out-of-school-time resources in place.

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 under-resourced families. Assisting more than 17,000 people across the state annually, PACT helps families identify, address and successfully resolve challenges through its 20 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 strengthening programs.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support of SB 2564 SD 1**, please contact me at (808) 847-3285 or rkusumoto@pacthawaii.org if you have any questions.



S E A C
Special Education Advisory Council
1010 Richards Street Honolulu, HI 96813
Phone: 586-8126 Fax: 586-8129
email: spin@doh.hawaii.gov
February 23, 2022

**Special Education
Advisory Council**

Ms. Martha Guinan, *Chair*
Ms. Susan Wood, *Vice Chair*

Ms. Sara Alimoot
Ms. Virginia Beringer
Ms. Mary Brogan
Ms. Deborah Cheeseman
Ms. Annette Cooper
Ms. Shana Cruz
Mr. Mark Disher
Dr. Kurt Humphrey
Ms. Mai Hall
Ms. Melissa Harper Osai
Mr. Kerry Iwashita
Ms. Melissa Johnson
Ms. Tina King
Ms. Jennifer Leoiki-Drino
Ms. Dale Matsuura
Ms. Cheryl Matthews
Dr. Paul Meng
Ms. Kiele Pennington
Ms. Carrie Pisciotto
Ms. Kau'i Rezentos
Ms. Rosie Rowe
Ms. Ivalee Sinclair
Mr. Steven Vannatta
Ms. Lisa Vegas
Ms. Paula Whitaker
Ms. Jasmine Williams

Ms. Annie Kalama, *liaison to
the Superintendent*
Dr. Bob Campbell, *liaison to
the military community*

Amanda Kaahanui, Staff
Susan Rocco, Staff

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Committee on Ways and Means
Hawaii State Capitol
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: SB 2564, SD 1 - Relating to After-School Programs

Dear Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee,

The Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC) supports SB 2564, SD 1 which provides more than \$6 million in additional funding to support high quality after-school programs at Hawaii's middle and intermediate public schools.

SEAC has long been supportive of more opportunities for students with disabilities to be involved in inclusive extracurricular activities that combine opportunities for learning and social emotional development. The USDOE has identified quality after-school programming as a key component for accelerating learning to make up for skill loss experienced by a variety of students, and especially students with disabilities, during the current pandemic. It is therefore critical that newly funded after-school programming include the necessary supports to accommodate the needs of diverse learners.

Mahalo for the opportunity to express our support for this legislation.

Respectfully,

Martha Guinan
Chair

Ways and Means Committee
Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

February 23, 2022
Conference Room 211

RE: Support of SB2564 Relating to After-School Programs

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

My name is Kamea Macusi, and I am in support of SB2564, which appropriates funds for the Department of Education's Resources for Enrichment, Athletics, Culture, and Health (REACH) program to match the federal dollars that the State receives for the 21st Century Community Learning Centers.

As a Master of Social Work (MSW) student, I have been heavily involved in a middle school afterschool program due to my practicum. The last time I was able to interact with this age group in-person was pre-COVID. However, between then and now, the differences are stark. According to the SY20-21 Strive HI data, 23,600 middle school students were below proficiency in math, and 16,400 in language arts. Not only are they behind in academics, but they are behind in their social development, struggling to socialize and communicate effectively. One could argue it is because puberty is a trying time, but I believe it is more than that. As adults, we have had more time to establish our identity and place in the world, but these children have not. Therefore, their realities are more turbulent and volatile, on top of bodily changes. Many adults expect children to act the same way before the pandemic, but everything (and everyone) has changed because of it. It would be a disservice to everyone to act as though it has not.

Afterschool programs recognize that change and do their part to help. At afterschool programs, the middle schoolers are able to see fellow peers outside of their class schedule, establish connections through new friendships, interact with adults on a more one-to-one basis which helps boost learning through academic tutoring, social skills modeling, learning conflict resolution skills, etc. They are also able to have opportunities to building self-determination by having a safe and interactive environment for them to be curious and explore various topics (including team sports, e-sports, Youth-led Participatory Action Research (YPAR), etc.).

Afterschool is Evidence-Based and Proven Effective

Working together, schools, afterschool programs, and community partners are better positioned to accelerate students' academic, social, and emotional learning, especially students who have been historically underserved and those with special needs.

Comprehensive afterschool programs apply evidence-based practices to support the needs of youth, families, and communities. Decades of data show these programs:

- Accelerate students' learning gains and improve their reading and math skills
- Engage youth in learning and boost school attendance
- Support social and emotional development
- Prevent youth violence
- Boost on-time graduation

More funding for the REACH program will help to expand comprehensive, high quality afterschool offerings and meet the growing needs of our students and families.

I respectfully urge the passage of this bill and appropriation of \$6,123,398 so that students have the support they need during the out-of-school time hours. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Kamea Macusi

SB-2564-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2022 7:16:56 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Hannah Kaina	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

FOR: SB2564 Relating to After-School Programs

DATE: February 23, 2022

TIME: 10:05 A.M.

COMMITTEE: Committee on Education

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on the SB 2564 and the ability to express **STRONG SUPPORT** for this bill. Completion of and graduating highschool is a great accomplishment for all. Creating avenues that will assist in making students journey easier to graduate, can be created with the use of after school programs, such as those R.E.A.C.H provides. Support both during and after school allows for more time to socialize and grow. It also provides time for parent's of these students to plan accordingly for pick up or to work more hours and provide support for the student in their home setting as well. The current pandemic has put an extra amount of stress on students today. Concerns for safety and completion of assignments may result in students experiencing an increase of anxiety. By utilizing after school programs, students can take that time to destress and find more energy to focus on their school related goals.

Thank you again, for opportunity to provide testimony.

SB-2564-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 6:50:04 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Ileana Ruelas	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Ways and Means Committee

Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair

Senator Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

February 23, 2022

Conference Room 211

RE: Support of SB2564 Relating to After-School Programs

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

I support SB2564 to appropriate funds for the Department of Education's Resources for Enrichment, Athletics, Culture, and Health (REACH) program to match federal dollars that the State receives for the 21st Century Community Learning Centers.

[Include a personal statement of why afterschool is important to you. And/or include a short story or example of how afterschool positively impacted a student or group of students in your school/community.]

According to the SY20-21 Strive HI data, 23,600 and 16,400 middle school students were below proficiency in math and language arts respectively. Increasing REACH funding from \$500,000 (current funding level) to \$6,123,398 (matching the 21st Century Community Learning Center federal funding Hawai'i receives) will help to expand afterschool to 6,000 more students who are in need of academic tutoring, enrichment, and social-emotional supports to succeed in school.

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Working together, schools, afterschool programs, and community partners are better positioned to accelerate students' academic, social, and emotional learning, especially students who have been historically underserved and those with special needs.

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- Prevent youth violence
- Boost on-time graduation

More funding for the REACH program will help to expand comprehensive, high quality afterschool offerings and meet the growing needs of our students and families.

I respectfully urges the passage of this bill and appropriation of \$6,123,398 so that students have the support they need during the out-of-school time hours. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely, Ileana H Ruelas

To: Senator Dela Cruz, Chair, Senator Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair, and members of the Ways and Means Committee

Subject: SB 2564 Relating to After-School Programs

Individual's Position: In Support

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and members of the Ways and Means Committee,

I support SB 2564 to appropriate funds for the Department of Education's Resources for Enrichment, Athletics, Culture, and Health (REACH) program to match federal dollars that the State receives for the 21st Century Community Learning Centers.

I am currently pursuing my Masters in Social Work at the Thompson School of Social Work and Public Health, and am currently doing my internship hours with the YMCA's United Peer Learning, Integrating New Knowledge (UPLINK) program. While I am not testifying as part of the YMCA, I am testifying based on personal experience in working with the program.

From my time working with the middle school students, I have seen some of the more reserved students become more open and interact more with their peers. It is also through these peer interactions that I have seen students motivate each other to do better in terms of participating in curriculum lessons, as well as acting as another support towards improved behavior among peers. I've also seen the program as an opportunity to keep our kids healthy both through some of the physical activities we have, as well as through the donated snacks that ensure that our kids are able to eat during their time with us.

With the impact of the pandemic on students' mental health, it is important that our programs dedicated to out-of-school time offer students the resources needed to thrive in school again, as well as giving their parents a safe option for child care before they are able to pick them up.

I respectfully urge the passage of this bill so that students have the support that they need during out-of-school hours. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Bailey Fujinaga

LATE

Dear Legislature,

I have a small afterschool program, CARES (CARE Arts & Recreation Education Services) in the Kapalama neighborhood and our program is registered with the Hawaii Afterschool Alliance's database. I testify in support of this bill.

Afterschool & summer programs are enriching, foundational, vital and necessary to a student's education. Afterschool & summer programs are proven by research data to support children's social emotions learning (SEL) skills and to heal from trauma. Why? Because during school, students learn about academics. But afterschool and during the holidays, students have extracurricular & recreational activities in which they can develop healthy relationships with their peers & teachers, process emotions, support each other and grow socially & emotionally. It is all part of a healthy growing process and the transition from student to adult.

There are a lot of social pressures, mental challenges and growing pains for students. Bullying, teasing, domestic abuse, these are the sources of trauma for a student. It is important to recognize the data evidence, as written in this bill, that students need support to heal from trauma. Student are not capable of processing and healing trauma on their own. As children, they do not have the social emotional learning (SEL) skills or psychology to be able to understand what they are going through or why they feel what they feel.

Trauma has an enormous impact on a student's mental acuity, study patterns, concentration and cognitive functioning. If the bill will help to address the inevitable trauma students must face at schools, the bill will have succeeded in contributing positively to Hawaii's students lives, uplifting student's spirits, boosting student's cognitive functions, creating mentally & emotionally strong keikis, and in return, it will help a student to excel academically and then become a positive contributor to society.

The bill notes, children from low-income households often experience the greatest gains from summer learning programs. This is because low-income households are the most vulnerable to trauma. Research shows poverty can cause poor mental health through social stress, stigma and trauma.

The legislature could appropriate funds to enrich the lives of the students who are impoverished with the unprecedented amount of funds to support public schools and summer learning programs. The money can supplement activities, art supplies, games, sport gear and different equipment to keep the students busy. When students are engaged in their learning, they are less likely to be involved in stirring up trouble or causing trauma. Appropriating funds to develop SEL training and trauma informed care would be in the fiscal interest of the legislature and DOE. It will fulfill the essential purpose and mission of the Department Of Education to develop academic achievement, character and social-emotional well-being of our students.

Blessings,
Zhizi Xiong