

JAN 23 2015

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that in Hawaii, over
2 fifty-four thousand children are left alone and unsupervised
3 until their parents return home from work each day. Yet
4 according to the Afterschool Alliance, 75 per cent of Hawaii
5 parents agree that afterschool programs can reduce the
6 likelihood that youth will engage in risky behavior and 93 per
7 cent support public funding of afterschool programs. The
8 legislature further finds that while Hawaii continues to be
9 among the states with high participation rates, that rate has
10 been declining from 35 per cent in 2004, to 28 per cent in 2009,
11 to 26 per cent in 2014. Juvenile violence peaks in the
12 afterschool hours on school days and in the evenings on non-
13 school days. 63 per cent of violent crimes committed by
14 juveniles occur on school days, while nearly one-fifth of all
15 juvenile violent crimes occur between the hours of three and
16 seven o'clock in the evening. During fiscal year 2013, the



1 police made over three thousand arrests of juveniles in Hawaii
2 between the ages of twelve and fourteen.

3 The legislature finds that afterschool programming
4 represents an upfront investment in Hawaii's youth and that
5 states with higher participation rates may be due to significant
6 state funding dedicated specifically to expanding the
7 availability of afterschool programs. According to the
8 department of education's 2013 superintendent's 24th annual
9 report, Hawaii's dropout rate has reached 15 per cent with a
10 graduation rate of only around 82 per cent. Nearly half of the
11 high school drop outs reported that they started high school
12 ill-prepared. Research indicates that each disconnected youth
13 costs the taxpayers nearly \$14,000 per year, which can continue
14 and even increase in the future as some disenfranchised youth
15 become part of the juvenile justice court systems. The stakes
16 of disengagement are high. Once students are disconnected,
17 recruitment, enrollment, and retention into programs require
18 stronger and more persistent outreach, more intensive services,
19 and more long-term participation.

20 The legislature further finds that middle and intermediate
21 school years are a pivotal time for our haumana, or students--a



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

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



1 public school students is important to the future of Hawaii's
2 'opio and the welfare of our State as a whole.

3 The legislature further finds that since its inception, the
4 R.E.A.C.H. initiative has provided over \$700,000 in funding for
5 afterschool programs at nine schools during the 2013-2014 school
6 year, as well as eleven schools during the 2014-2015 school year
7 throughout all counties in the State. The legislature finds
8 that this funding has been instrumental during the vulnerable
9 middle school years and has manifested positive impacts on the
10 lives of these students inside and outside of the classroom.
11 The legislature finds, however, that a dedicated program with
12 reliable funding is necessary to provide continued and
13 uninterrupted services in middle and intermediate schools
14 statewide.

15 The legislature further finds that the office of youth
16 services, within the department of human services, provides
17 comprehensive front end services and programs for youth to
18 prevent delinquency and reduce the incidence of recidivism. The
19 office is dedicated to creating opportunities for youth to
20 develop competencies that foster resiliency and enable them to
21 achieve a successful transition to young adulthood. The



1 legislature determines that the objectives of the R.E.A.C.H.
2 initiative are wholly aligned with those of the office of youth
3 services and, accordingly, provided funding during fiscal year
4 2014-2015 to the office of youth services for the R.E.A.C.H.
5 program.

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

9 (1) Establishes the R.E.A.C.H. program within the office
10 of youth services; and

11 (2) Establishes a revolving fund to receive fees and other
12 moneys to supplement the costs of administering and
13 operating the program.

14 SECTION 2. Chapter 352D, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
15 amended by adding three new sections to be appropriately
16 designated and to read as follows:

17 "§352D-A Resources for enrichment, athletics, culture, and
18 health (R.E.A.C.H.) program; established. There is established
19 the resources for enrichment, athletics, culture, and health
20 (R.E.A.C.H.) program within the office.



1 §352D-B Resources for enrichment, athletics, culture, and
2 health (R.E.A.C.H.) program; powers and duties. (a) The office
3 shall provide funding to establish, support, or enhance
4 afterschool programs in public middle or intermediate schools.
5 The office may enter into contracts with middle or intermediate
6 schools, individuals, organizations, or other entities to
7 provide afterschool programs to public middle and intermediate
8 schools.

9 (b) The office shall:

- 10 (1) Establish criteria, application, selection, and award
11 processes for funding afterschool programs;
12 (2) Monitor the afterschool programs within each school;
13 (3) Conduct site evaluations for schools with afterschool
14 programs funded under the R.E.A.C.H. program; and
15 (4) Ensure each afterschool program meets contractual
16 expectations.

17 (c) The office may establish participation fees or other
18 charges to be assessed to each student for the cost of
19 administering and operating the R.E.A.C.H. program. The
20 revenues from those fees shall be deposited into the R.E.A.C.H.



1 program revolving fund to be used to supplement the costs of
2 administering and operating the program.

3 §352D-C R.E.A.C.H. program revolving fund. (a) There is
4 established the R.E.A.C.H. program revolving fund to be
5 administered by the office.

6 (b) The R.E.A.C.H. program revolving fund shall consist
7 of:

8 (1) Fees collected by the office for administering and
9 operating the R.E.A.C.H. program, and the provision of
10 program services;

11 (2) Legislative appropriations;

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

14 (4) Any other moneys made available to the R.E.A.C.H.
15 program revolving fund from any other sources.

16 (c) All moneys in the R.E.A.C.H. program revolving fund
17 shall be used to supplement the costs of administering and
18 operating the R.E.A.C.H. program. The office may also use the
19 moneys to:

20 (1) Hire personnel to implement, operate, and oversee
21 afterschool programs;



- 1 (2) Promote afterschool program activities;
- 2 (3) Conduct afterschool education and demonstration
- 3 projects;
- 4 (4) Contract for services for afterschool programs; and
- 5 (5) Fund associated expenses for afterschool programs."

6 SECTION 3. Section 352D-3, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
 7 amended by adding a new definition to be appropriately inserted
 8 and to read as follows:

9 "R.E.A.C.H. program" means the resources for enrichment,
 10 athletics, culture, and health program established pursuant to
 11 section 352D-A."

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

16 SECTION 5. New statutory material is underscored.

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

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S.B. NO. 980

Report Title:

Afterschool Programs; Resources for Enrichment, Athletics, Culture, and Health Program; R.E.A.C.H.; Revolving Fund

Description:

Establishes the R.E.A.C.H. (Resources for Enrichment, Athletics, Culture, and Health) program in the office of youth services to provide a standardized framework and funding for afterschool programs in public middle/intermediate schools. Establishes a revolving fund to receive fees and other moneys to supplement the costs of administering and operating the program.

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.

