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**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

RELATING TO AFTER-SCHOOL 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, seventy-five per cent of  
5 Hawaii parents agree that after-school programs can reduce the  
6 likelihood that youth will engage in risky behavior and ninety-  
7 three per cent support public funding of after-school programs.  
8 The legislature further finds that while Hawaii continues to be  
9 among the states with high participation rates, that rate has  
10 been declining from thirty-five per cent in 2004, to twenty-  
11 eight per cent in 2009, and twenty-six per cent in 2014.  
12 Juvenile violence peaks in the after-school hours on school days  
13 and in the evenings on non-school days. Sixty-five per cent of  
14 violent crimes committed by juveniles occur on school days,  
15 while nearly one-fifth of all juvenile violent crimes occur  
16 between the hours of three and seven o'clock in the evening.  
17 During fiscal year 2012-2013, the police made over three

1 thousand arrests of juveniles in Hawaii between the ages of  
2 twelve and fourteen.

3       The legislature finds that after-school 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 after-school programs. According to the  
8 department of education's 2013 superintendent's twenty-fourth  
9 annual report, Hawaii's dropout rate has reached fifteen per  
10 cent with a graduation rate of only around eighty-two per cent.  
11 Nearly half of the high school dropouts reported that they  
12 started high school ill-prepared. Research indicates that each  
13 disconnected youth costs the taxpayers nearly \$14,000 per year,  
14 which can continue and even increase in the future as some  
15 disenfranchised youth become part of the juvenile justice court  
16 systems. The stakes of disengagement are high. Once students  
17 are disconnected, recruitment, enrollment, and retention into  
18 programs require stronger and more persistent outreach, more  
19 intensive services, and more long-term participation.

20       The legislature further finds that middle school years are  
21 a pivotal time for our haumana, or students – a time when they

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

12 The legislature finds that, in March 2013, the  
13 administration, through the lieutenant governor, established the  
14 R.E.A.C.H. initiative, which stands for "resources for  
15 enrichment, athletics, culture, and health," to develop a  
16 framework and funding base for after-school programs for public  
17 middle school students throughout the State. The legislature  
18 further finds that the establishment of a state-subsidized  
19 after-school program for public middle school students is  
20 important to the future of Hawaii's 'opio and the welfare of our  
21 State as a whole.

1           The legislature further finds that since its inception, the  
2 R.E.A.C.H. initiative has provided over \$1,400,000 in funding  
3 for after-school programs including nine schools during the  
4 2013-2014 school year, eleven schools during the 2014-2015  
5 school year, and nineteen schools during the 2015-2016 school  
6 year throughout all counties in the State. The legislature  
7 finds that this funding has been instrumental during the  
8 vulnerable middle school years and has manifested positive  
9 impacts on the lives of these students inside and outside of the  
10 classroom. The legislature finds, however, that a dedicated  
11 program with reliable funding is necessary to provide continued  
12 and uninterrupted services in middle schools statewide.

13           The legislature further finds that the office of youth  
14 services, within the department of human services, provides  
15 comprehensive front-end services and programs for youth to  
16 prevent delinquency and reduce the incidence of recidivism. The  
17 office is dedicated to creating opportunities for youth to  
18 develop competencies that foster resiliency and enable them to  
19 achieve a successful transition to young adulthood. The  
20 legislature determines that the objectives of the R.E.A.C.H.  
21 initiative are wholly aligned with those of the office of youth

1 services and, accordingly, provided funding during fiscal years  
2 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 to the office of youth services for the  
3 R.E.A.C.H. initiative.

4 The purpose of this Act is to provide a standardized  
5 framework and funding for after-school programs in public middle  
6 schools. Specifically, this Act:

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

9 (2) Authorizes the office of youth services to award  
10 funding for after-school programs and report to the  
11 legislature on program implementation and use of  
12 funds.

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

16 "§352D-A Resources for enrichment, athletics, culture, and  
17 health (R.E.A.C.H.) program; established. There is established  
18 the resources for enrichment, athletics, culture, and health  
19 (R.E.A.C.H.) program within the office of youth services.

20 §352D-B Resources for enrichment, athletics, culture, and  
21 health (R.E.A.C.H.) program; implementation. (a) The office of

1 youth services shall provide funding to establish, support, or  
2 enhance after-school programs in public middle schools. The  
3 office of youth services may enter into contracts with middle  
4 schools, individuals, organizations, or other entities to  
5 provide after-school programs to public middle schools.

6 (b) The office of youth services shall:

7 (1) Establish criteria, application, selection, and award  
8 processes for funding after-school programs;

9 (2) Monitor the after-school programs within each school;

10 (3) Conduct site evaluations for schools with after-school  
11 programs funded under the R.E.A.C.H. program;

12 (4) Ensure each after-school program meets contractual  
13 expectations; and

14 (5) Report annually to the legislature on the  
15 implementation of programs and use of funds under the  
16 R.E.A.C.H. program, including but not limited to  
17 information on funds awarded to provide services to  
18 public middle schools, current and future plans to  
19 assess or collect fees, and efforts to obtain non-  
20 state funding for the financial sustainability of the  
21 R.E.A.C.H. program.

1        §352D-C Resources for enrichment, athletics, culture, and  
2 health (R.E.A.C.H.) program; requirements, fees. Pursuant to  
3 chapter 91, the office of youth services may establish program  
4 requirements and participation fees or other charges to be  
5 assessed to each participant for the cost of administering and  
6 operating the R.E.A.C.H. program."

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

10        "Public middle schools" means all academic and noncollege  
11 type middle schools established and maintained by the department  
12 of education, including charter schools governed by chapter  
13 302D.

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

17        SECTION 4. In codifying the new sections added to chapter  
18 352D, Hawaii Revised Statutes, by section 2 of this Act, the  
19 revisor of statutes shall substitute appropriate section numbers  
20 for the letters used in designating and referring to the new  
21 sections in this Act.

1 SECTION 5. New statutory material is underscored.

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

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INTRODUCED BY: \_\_\_\_\_



BY REQUEST

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JAN 25 2016

**Report Title:**

After-school Programs; Resources for Enrichment, Athletics, Culture, and Health Program.

**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 a funding mechanism for after-school programs in public middle schools. Requires the Office of Youth Services to report to the Legislature.

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

## JUSTIFICATION SHEET

DEPARTMENT: Office of the Lieutenant Governor

TITLE: A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS.

PURPOSE: Establish the Resources for Enrichment, Athletics, Culture, and Health (R.E.A.C.H.) program to be administered by the Office of Youth Services and a funding mechanism for the program in public middle schools.

MEANS: Adds three new sections to chapter 352D, Hawaii Revised Statutes, and amend section 352D-3, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

JUSTIFICATION: The middle school years are a pivotal time for our keiki, a vulnerable time where they can easily succumb to peer pressure and derail their education and future. Fifty percent of all first time juvenile arrests in Hawaii occur at the middle school age. Research repeatedly demonstrates that participation in high-quality after-school programs leads to improved attendance, better behavior, better academic performance, and increased family and community engagement.

The Office of the Lieutenant Governor, with the support of the Department of Education, established the R.E.A.C.H. initiative in 2013 with funds appropriated by the Legislature that were expended for a pilot program to establish, support, or expand after-school hour programs in public middle schools within the State. The mission of R.E.A.C.H. is to provide positive high-quality youth development and enrichment programs during after-school hours to keep middle school youth engaged and on track towards graduation, college, career, and ultimately a higher quality of life.

The Office of Youth Services has been determined as the best agency to house this program as it provides comprehensive front end services and programs for youth to prevent delinquency and reduce the incidence of recidivism.

Impact on the public: The proposed bill will establish a program and a funding mechanism to provide for after-school programs in middle schools. Participation in these programs keeps students engaged and excited about learning, keeps them on the right path, and reduces dropout rates and future draws on public resources.

Impact on the department and other agencies: The Office of Youth services will undertake a new program that is in line with its mission to provide support for our youth.

GENERAL FUND: None.

OTHER FUNDS: None.

PPBS PROGRAM  
DESIGNATION: HMS501.

OTHER AFFECTED  
AGENCIES: Office of Youth Services, Department of  
Education.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon approval.