

JAN 23 2015

A BILL FOR AN ACT

MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO SUPPORT THE AFTER-SCHOOL PLUS
PROGRAM.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that in the United
2 States, more than one-fourth of school-age children are left
3 alone and unsupervised during afterschool hours. The majority
4 of these children are elementary and intermediate school
5 students who are at an age at which they may be vulnerable to
6 outside vices.

7 The legislature also finds that children are awake
8 approximately six thousand hours per year, but spend only one
9 thousand hours per year in the classroom. Therefore, the
10 effective use of out-of-school hours is an important development
11 opportunity for children.

12 The legislature further finds that the after-school plus
13 (A+) program was created in 1989 to provide an avenue for
14 keeping children in a safe and nurturing environment during the
15 time when school is over until they are in the complete care of
16 their families. Moreover, the legislature finds that the after-



1 school plus (A+) program has been operating successfully for the
2 past decade and a half, with upwards of twenty thousand
3 elementary school children enrolled in the program in more than
4 one hundred and eighty elementary schools statewide.

5 The legislature finds that funding for the after-school
6 plus (A+) program has been achieved through three primary
7 sources: legislative appropriations through the department of
8 education; participation subsidies provided through the
9 department of human services for children who are eligible for
10 assistance through the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families
11 program; and monthly tuition contributions by parents of
12 children who do not qualify for subsidy assistance. When the
13 program was established in 1989-1990, the total budget for the
14 after-school plus (A+) program was \$15,600,000.

15 The legislature also finds that during the state financial
16 crisis of 2008-2009, the after-school plus (A+) program support
17 consisted of \$1,957,213 from legislative appropriations to the
18 department of education, nearly \$7,000,000 through department of
19 human services subsidies, and family tuition contributions.
20 However, by 2011-2012, no money was appropriated to the
21 department of education to support the after-school plus (A+)



1 program; the program was solely supported through department of
2 human services subsidies and family tuition contributions. For
3 families that do not qualify for a subsidy, the tuition payments
4 for after-school plus (A+) program participation have risen from
5 \$25 per child per month in 1989-1990 to \$85 per child per month
6 in 2010-2011.

7 Further, the legislature finds that while the after-school
8 plus (A+) program remains an important and viable after school
9 alternative for thousands of elementary school children
10 statewide, operating costs will increase dramatically in 2015
11 due to the implementation of minimum wage increases that affect
12 after-school plus (A+) program staff stipends. In addition, the
13 legislature finds that there is significant need for after-
14 school plus (A+) program improvement.

15 The purpose of this Act is to increase the amount of
16 funding the legislature provides to the after-school plus (A+)
17 program to the department of education to:

- 18 (1) Enhance oversight and administration of the after-
19 school plus (A+) program by developing and
20 implementing professional training for program staff
21 and an evaluation system;



- 1 (2) Enhance and improve the content of the after-school
- 2 plus (A+) program; and
- 3 (3) Alleviate the tuition burden on families of children
- 4 participating in the after-school plus (A+) program.

5 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
 6 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$6,000,000 or so much
 7 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2015-2016 and the
 8 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
 9 2016-2017 to support the after-school plus (A+) program by
 10 enhancing and improving the content of after-school (A+)
 11 programs, developing and implementing a professional development
 12 training for program staff and an evaluation system, and
 13 alleviating the financial burden of families whose children
 14 attend these programs.

15 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
 16 of education for the purposes of this Act.

17 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2015.

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INTRODUCED BY: Michelle Tidani
Dane Wilson

S.B. NO. 866

Report Title:

After-School Plus (A+) Program; Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates moneys for the After-School Plus (A+) Program.

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