



SB500 SD1
RELATING TO AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

February 23, 2017

9:35 AM

Room 211

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** SB500 SD1, which would establish the Resources for Enrichment, Athletics, Culture and Health (R.E.A.C.H) Program within the Department of Education's Community Engagement Office to provide a standardized framework and funding mechanism for after-school programs in public middle and intermediate schools. **The R.E.A.C.H initiative proposes to fill the current void of after-school activities for middle school students with an organizational framework, which will ensure that our 'ōpio at this highly impressionable and vulnerable age receive the kind of positive support and educational stimulation to help keep them on the path toward graduation and productive futures.**

Under OHA's 2010-2018 Strategic Plan, OHA's Education Strategic Priority Results include the goal of increasing the percentage of Native Hawaiian students who meet or exceed reading and math educational standards. Accordingly, OHA has invested substantial funding in after-school programs such as the Boys and Girls Club of Hawai'i, After School All-Stars, REACH programs at Moloka'i Middle School, and REACH programs at Hāna High and Elementary School, among others, to improve the educational outcomes of Native Hawaiian students by keeping them engaged in constructive extracurricular activities. Significantly, after-school programs also stem the risk of adolescent youth engaging in behavior that may result in their first contact with law enforcement authorities; as noted in the Hawai'i Department of Education's testimony on this measure, a 2016 Hawai'i Department of Human Services report found that 51% of first-time juvenile arrests occur within this age group.

Therefore, OHA urges your Committee to **PASS** SB500 SD1.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



State of Hawaii
Department of Education
Kapolei Middle School

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Kapolei, Hawaii 96707
Phone: (808) 693-7025 Fax: (808) 693-7030

TO: **Senate Committee on Ways and Means**
The Honorable Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair

FROM: Bruce Naguwa, Principal
Kapolei Middle School, Department of Education

SUBJECT: **TESTIMONY RE: SB 500 – RELATING TO AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS**

Hearing: Thursday, February 23, 2017, 9:35 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 211

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **strong support** of SB 500.

The middle school years are a pivotal time for students and we are honored to have been selected to receive R.E.A.C.H. funding for public middle/intermediate school after-school programming. The R.E.A.C.H. Initiative represents an upfront investment in Hawaii's youth to keep them engaged in high-quality, positive, pro-social, enrichment, athletics, culture, and health programs.

R.E.A.C.H. empowers our schools to make after-school programming an extension of the classroom, reduces the risk of a variety of undesirable behaviors among adolescents, and increases school attendance and achievement and reduces dropout rates. Hawaii's working families need programs like R.E.A.C.H. to ensure that children are safe and engaged.

The R.E.A.C.H. funding has afforded our school the opportunity to offer a number of after school activities that were not possible before. Our students are able to participate in both athletic and education programs that are offered after normal school ours. Students are now afforded the opportunity to participate in sporting events such as; girls and boys basketball, girls and boys volleyball, flag football, girls and boys soccer, girls and boys softball and physical fitness. The funding also supports our Tech Hui, which is an after school program that supports STEM activities and our band and chorus programs.

The Hawaii Department of Education convened and facilitated the working group for HCR137 (2016) to study and take inventory of public middle/intermediate school after-school programming throughout the state in between June and December 2016. The recommendations of the group align with SB 500

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B18ESQ731_iKUHo5TkRwU1FicWc/view?usp=sharing]. In evaluating the landscape of middle and intermediate afterschool, the working group found the hours after school from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. for this age group are potentially the most vulnerable if youth are not in an afterschool program. According to the Hawaii Department of

Human services report, 51% of first time juvenile arrests occur with this age group and that the cost of incarceration is \$200,000 per year, per child

R.E.A.C.H. is the **only** state general funded after-school funding source dedicated to our public middle and intermediate schools and an increase in funding and the formal establishment of the R.E.A.C.H. Initiative is critical to the future of Hawaii's youth and overall welfare of the State.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of SB 500.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



KATHRYN MATAYOSHI
SUPERINTENDENT

State of Hawaii
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Kapolei Middle School

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February 22, 2017

TO: **Senate Committee on Ways and Means**
The Honorable Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair

FROM: Keli Lee, Physical Education Teacher
Kapolei Middle School

SUBJECT: **TESTIMONY RE: SB 500 – RELATING TO AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS**

Hearing: Thursday, February 23, 2017, 9:35 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 211

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Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of SB 500.



State of Hawai'i
Department of Education

Moloka'i Middle School

P.O. Box 443
Hoolehua, HI 96729

TO: **Senate Committee on Ways and Means**
The Honorable Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair

FROM: Dawn Mains Principal
Molokai Middle School

SUBJECT: **TESTIMONY RE: SB 500 – RELATING TO AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS**

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