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STATE OF HAWAII DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES P. O. Box 339

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January 28, 2008



MEMORANDUM

TO:

The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair

Committee on Human Services and Public Housing

FROM:

Lillian B. Koller, Director

SUBJECT:

S.B. 2822 RELATING TO NON-SCHOOL HOURS PROGRAMS

Hearing:

Monday, January 28, 2008; 3:45 p.m.

Conference Room 225, State Capitol

PURPOSE: The bill appropriates TANF funds for non-school hour programs to be expended by the Department of Education (DOE), the Office of Youth Services, (OYS), and the Counties.

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department agrees that it is important to establish safe and structured learning environments for school-age children during non-school hours. While the Department of Human Services (DHS) appreciates the intent of this bill to provide non-school hour programs for youth in kindergarten through twelfth grade, the Department currently provides a great deal of funding for non-school activities - approximately \$6 million per year in TANF MOE State funds spent on A+ services on DOE elementary school campuses and approximately \$20 million per year in TANF Federal funds spent on positive youth development programs in DOE middle and intermediate school campuses and elsewhere in our communities Statewide providing services to Hawaii's children.

It is not clear if this bill is proposing to acknowledge and continue the current non-school hour services funded by TANF or to establish new non-school hour services and increase funding for these new programs. The Legislature will need to work closely with the Department to identify any available TANF funds for these expansion purposes and raise the TANF cap on the Department's TANF expenditures to use TANF funds to implement this bill if it is intended to increase TANF programs.

The DHS is funding through TANF, many positive youth development programs via the Office of Youth Services (OYS) and the Department of Defense (DOD) that are providing services during the non-school hours in various communities statewide to children attending middle or intermediate schools. The Department is also funding with TANF, the Uniting Peer Learning Integrating New Knowledge (UPLINK) Program, a non-school hour program, in thirteen DOE middle/intermediate schools and we are currently working on funding two more DOE sites on the Big Island and one on Kauai. The DHS is also funding with TANF, non-school hour programs in Native Hawaiian Charter Schools. The TANF expenditures on these non-school hour positive youth development programs total approximately \$20 million per year.

There are also services funded by the various Counties and OYS to provide services and support for non-school hour programs. The Department of Education (DOE) and the DHS are already funding the A+ program in almost all public elementary schools (K-5, and in some cases also 6th grade), including Charter Schools during the non-academic after-school hours of the elementary school day. The General Fund expenditure on A+ is approximately \$6 million per year. DOE also spends another \$6 million of State funds on A+ services from their budget.

The Department also has a concern that this bill has no provision to evaluate and inventory the existing non-school hour services to determine if there is a need to establish new services for various school-age categories in different local geographic communities.

The Department respectfully requests that the passage of this bill does not replace nor adversely impact the priorities in the Executive Supplemental Budget and the existing beneficial programs currently funded with TANF.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this bill.

Island of Hawaii YMCA

Waiakea Settlement Branch 300 W. Lanikuala Street Hilo, Hawaii 96720 Phone:808-935-3721 Fax: 808-969-1722

LATE TESTIMONY

NOTICE OF HEARING

Monday, January 28, 2008 3:45 PM

Committee on Education Senator Norman Sakamoto, Chair Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Vice Chair

Committee on Human Services and Public Housing Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair Senator Les Ihara, Jr. Vice Chair

RE: SB #2822 RELATING TO NON-SCHOOL HOUR PROGRAMS

Aloha,

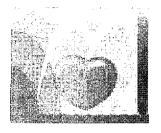
My name is Robert Stivers and I am the Vice President of Operations and Branch Executive Director of the Island of Hawaii YMCA. I want to express my support in favor of SB 2822 relating to non-school hour programs...

The current Department of Education A Plus after school program already serves 125,000 children state-wide and in its nineteen years of operation has a successful track record in providing quality after school care.

The real need is for children who attend middle school after the 5th grade. Working parents particularly need supervision for the 6th grade child but most middle schools do not offer after school programs. 6th grades are still too young to be left unsupervised.

On the Island of Hawaii, the Waiakea Settlement YMCA provides an after school program for children from Waiakea Intermediate School. We have about thirty (30) children who are bused from their school to the YMCA each day. Parents pay a monthly fee of \$70.00. If the A+ program is expanded to middle schools and the fee structure is similar many more parents would enroll their child.

Thank you for your time.



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www.grievingyouth.org Kidshurttoo.org

Kids hupt too HEALING YOUNG HEARTS

January 28, 2008

To: COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION.
Senator Norman Sakamoto, Chair
Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Vice Chair
And members of the committee

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES AND PUBLIC HOUSING Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair And members of the committee

From: Cynthia White, Executive Director of Kids hurt too

Re: Support for SB 2822, Relating to non-school hour programs

Kids hurt too is a non-profit organization providing peer support and mentoring services to children in low income single-parent and foster parent families, which includes orphans, foster children, children of divorce, and other children separated from one or both parents. We define our service population as grieving children; therefore our services focus children on positive and healthy activities during evening peer groups and after school hours that help them cope with painful life circumstances that require long term adjustments.

Kids hurt too received a non-school hour programs grant in 2007 through the Office of Youth Services. We started an after school mentoring program, providing services at the Beretania Community Park across the street from where we will open a permanent facility for after school mentoring services and peer support programs. We provided after school activities in a rented classroom at the district park. A full time staff was hired with these funds and it provided funding for one fourth time of another staff. Staff and youth mentors walked the grounds of the park where children gathered, interrupting the bullying and teasing of younger youth and offering safer activities. To our amazement, within a few weeks, the youth did not walk to our program, they ran. Soon we had up to 40 youth running to our classroom to join in the activities that includes tutoring, healthy snacks, social skills training, and learning safe conduct. We evaluated our services, getting input and feedback from the youth on their learning and interests. Our outcomes showed increases in academic performance, improvement in physical health, and decreases in bullying and fighting.

We believe our after school program was a tremendous success and appreciate the opportunity to expand our services, reaching more youth. We continue to reach out to more children, working with schools to provide services to children without one or both parents through positive after school activities. Please support SB 2822.