

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR



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STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

March 16, 2009

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable John M. Mizuno, Chair
House Committee on Human Services

FROM: Lillian B. Koller, Director

SUBJECT: **S. B. 774, S.D. 2 – RELATING TO SCHOOLS**

Hearing: Monday, March 16, 2009, 8:00 a.m.
Conference Room 329, State Capitol

PURPOSE: The purpose of S.B. 774 ,S.D. 2 is to appropriate TANF funds for non-school-hour programs and establishes the Hawaii County Safe Haven demonstration project.

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) respectfully opposes this measure as its implementation would adversely impact the priorities set forth in the Executive Biennium Budget.

The Department agrees that it is important to establish safe and structured learning environments for school-age children during non-school hours. While the DHS appreciates the intent of this bill to provide non-school hour programs for youth in kindergarten through twelfth grade, the Department currently already provides a great deal of funding for non-school activities.

For example, DHS provides approximately \$6 million per year in TANF MOE State funds spent on A+ services in almost all public elementary schools (K-5 and in some cases also 6th grade) of the Department of Education (DOE) and approximately \$15 million per year in TANF Federal funds and TANF MOE State 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.

DHS is also funding through TANF Federal funds and TANF MOE State funds, many positive youth development programs via the Office of Youth Services (OYS) and the Department of Defense (DOD) that are also 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 Federal funds, the Uniting Peer Learning Integrating New Knowledge (UPLINK) Program, a non-school hour program, in fifteen (15) DOE middle/intermediate schools. The DHS is also funding non-school hour programs in Native Hawaiian Charter Schools.

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 should the Legislature appropriate TANF Federal funds for this bill, current TANF appropriation restrictions on pregnancy prevention and positive youth development services be increased to reflect this additional appropriation.

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



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March 16, 2009

TO: The Honorable John M. Mizuno, Chair
The Honorable Tom Brower, Vice Chair
House Committee on Human Services

FROM: Martha T. Torney, Executive Director

SUBJECT: SB 774, SD2 RELATING TO SCHOOLS

Hearing: Monday, March 16, 2009, 8:00 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 329

The Office of Youth Service (OYS) supports the intent of SB 774, SD2, relating to non-school hour programs. However, the OYS defers to the Department of Human Services regarding the priorities and usage of the TANF funds.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.

Date of Hearing: March 16, 2009

Committee: House Human Services

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Patricia Hamamoto, Superintendent

Title: S.B. No. 0774, S.D. 2 (SSCR663) Relating to Schools

Purpose: Appropriates TANF funds for non-school-hour programs; introduces Hawaii county safe haven demonstration project.

Department's Position: The Department of Education (Department) supports S.B. No. 0774, S.D. 2 (SSCR663). The Department recognizes the importance of providing safe and structured learning environments for school-age children during non-school hours. These programs engage students in experiential, hands-on learning projects, challenge students to delve deeply into core subjects, and allow students to participate in enrichment and remedial opportunities that can enhance their academic, personal, and social development.

The Department has collaborated with the Departments of Human Services and Parks and Recreation, and other community agencies in implementing non-school hour programs. Through Act 281, SLH 2006, individual and school consortia, community agencies, and county Departments of Parks and Recreation served over 6,300 students in non-school hour programs.

The Department supports S.B. No. 0774, S.D. 2 (SSCR663) as long as its implementation does not impact or replace the priorities set forth in

the Executive Biennium Budget for Fiscal Years 2009-2010.

However, we defer to the Office of Youth Services and the Hawaii County government, the identified expending agencies for Parts I and II of S.B. No. 0774, S.D. 2 (SSCR663) as to funding priority for their sections.

William P. Kenoi
Mayor



William T. Takaba
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March 16, 2009

The Honorable Representative John M. Mizuno, Chair
And Members of the House Committee on Human Services,
Hawai'i State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Re: Senate Bill 774, SD2 RELATING TO SCHOOLS

Dear Chair Mizuno and Committee Members:

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony in strong support of Senate Bill 774 SD2, which would establish a framework for Non-School Hour programs across the state, and create a Safe Haven Model Demonstration Program in Hawai'i County.

We all know that the risk of juvenile crime, drug use, alcohol and tobacco use and sexual activity increases among older children who are left unsupervised in the after-school hours. There is also a consensus that Hawai'i County lacks positive educational and recreational activities for our youth in the after-school and evening hours.

Today we have no "A-Plus" Program for teenagers, but our schools can be a positive place for our kids even after the traditional school day ends. The Safe Haven After School Program would establish safe, structured and supervised after-school learning environments for our youth. It will allow our communities to take responsibility for our children, for our schools and for our communities' health and safety.

We ask you to help us to open our schools to our youth so they can remain there after classes end to engage in positive recreational, educational and cultural activities. Working parents, who are under all kinds of stresses today, will benefit from knowing their children are being supervised in a safe and positive environment.

We all understand these are difficult economic times, but providing positive alternatives for our youth today will pay dividends for decades to come. We believe the \$600,000 we proposed for this project is a wise investment, and believe the Safe Haven Model will be of great benefit to our children.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Aloha,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Billy Kenoi".

Billy Kenoi
MAYOR

Aloha Representative John Mizuno & members of the house committee. My name is Sharalyn De Monte and I am a Master's student @ the University of Hawaii Myron B Thompson School of social work. I am here today to strongly support SB 774.

I support senate bill 774 to appropriate funds for non-school-hour programs for children and teens grades K-12. We need this bill because of the economic challenges that are placed on families every day both parents need to work. Therefore, children and teens are either placed in before school or after school childcare. For adolescent children it is even harder to find quality supervised after-school programs on island.

Personally as a teenager I could have benefited from after school programs. As a teenager I remember hanging out after school with my friends participating in activities that could have gotten me into trouble.

A survey done by the YMCA in 2001 found that teenagers who are unattended during after school hours from 3 to 6pm are highly prone to participating in risky behaviors such as drugs, alcohol abuse, sexual activity, cigarette smoking, and carrying and using weapons.