

SB 774

Date of Hearing: February 10, 2009

Committee: Senate Human Services

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Patricia Hamamoto, Superintendent

Title: S.B. No. 774, Relating to Schools

Purpose: Appropriates TANF funds for non-school-hour programs; appropriates funds for the Safe Haven after-school program in Hawaii County; establishes a task force on non-school-hour programs; and appropriates general funds for non-school-hour activities and an Educational Specialist II.

Department's Position: The Department of Education (Department) supports S.B. No. 774. 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. 774, 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. 774, as to funding priority for their sections.

William P. Kenoi
Mayor



William T. Takaba
Managing Director

Walter K.M. Lau
Deputy Managing Director

County of Hawai'i

891 Ululani Street • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720-3982 • (808) 961-8211 • Fax (808) 961-6553
KONA: 75-5706 Kuakini Highway, Suite 103 • Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96740
(808) 329-5226 • Fax (808) 326-5663

February 10, 2009

The Honorable Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
And Committee Members of the Senate Human Services Committee,
Hawai'i State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Re: Senate Bill 774, RELATING TO SCHOOLS

Dear Chair Chun Oakland and Committee Members:

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

We 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 there is 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 owe it to our children to make the Safe Haven Model a reality.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Aloha,

Billy Kenoi
MAYOR



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

OFFICE OF YOUTH SERVICES
820 Millilani Street, Suite 817
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Phone: (808) 587-5700
Fax: (808) 587-5734

February 9, 2009

TO: The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
Senate Committee on Human Services

The Honorable Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Human Services, Vice Chair

FROM: Martha T. Torney, Executive Director

SUBJECT: SB 774, RELATING TO SCHOOLS

Hearing: Tuesday, February 10, 2009, 2:15 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 016

The Office of Youth Service (OYS) supports the intent of SB 774, 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.

Part III, Section 10, line 3, of SB 774 proposes to establish a non-school hour task force within the OYS, and that various members of the task force be appointed by the Superintendent of Department of Education (DOE). We respectfully recommend that the task force be established within the DOE in order to be more logistically consistent with the duties of the Superintendent's role to appoint the members of the task force and the assigned activities of the task force.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.



The Island of Hawaii YMCA

Serving the People of the Island of Hawaii since 1917.

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

NOTICE OF HEARING: TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2009 2:15 PM

Committee on Human Services and Public Housing

Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair

Room 226 FX: 808-586-6131

Senator Les Ihara, Jr. Vice Chair

RE: S.B. #774 RELATING TO NON-SCHOOL-HOUR AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Aloha,

My name is Robert "Bobby" 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 of S.B. #774 relating to non-school-hour programs and establishing and funding a demonstration program in the County of Hawaii as a model that can be expanded to other counties.

Since its inception in 1990, the Department of Education A Plus After School Program provides after school care for over 125,000 children state-wide and has a successful model.

When school is out the YMCA is in. The YMCAs in Hilo, Kona and Waimea has provided non-school-hour programs well before 1990 and continues today to provide programs during intersession breaks (October, December-January, March), waiver days and summer break. However, there are thousands of children of working parents needing adult supervision during non-school-hours. We are particularly concerned about middle school youth in grades 6-7 where A+ does not serve.

While schools are the center of a community, most schools close its doors after 5:30 pm. The collaborative effort of the safe haven demonstration program is ideal and needed here on the Island of Hawaii. The willingness of businesses, government and not-for-profit organizations is very positive to work together for the betterment of children and youth.

Thank you for your time.

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR



LILLIAN B. KOLLER, ESQ.
DIRECTOR
HENRY OLIVA
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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

February 10, 2009

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
Senate Committee on Human Services

FROM: Lillian B. Koller, Director

SUBJECT: **S. B. 774 – RELATING TO SCHOOLS**

Hearing: Tuesday, February 10, 2009, 2:15 p.m.
Conference Room 016, State Capitol

PURPOSE: The purpose of S.B. 774 are to appropriate TANF funds for non-school-hour programs; appropriate fund for the Safe Haven after-school program in Hawaii County; establish a task force on non-school hour programs; and appropriate general funds for non-school-hour activities and an educational specialist II.

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) appreciates the intent of this measure but it is unclear if this bill is proposing to acknowledge and continue the current non-school hour services funded by DHS, or to establish new non-school hour services and increase funding for these new programs. Provided that its implementation does not impact nor replace the priorities set forth in the Executive Biennium Budget for Fiscal Years 2009-2010, DHS offers the following comments on this bill.

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 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 elementary school campuses of the Department of Education (DOE) and approximately \$15 million per year in TANF federal funds and general 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 general 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.

There are also services funded by the various Counties and OYS to provide services and support for non-school hour programs. The DOE and 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 general funds on A+ services from their budget.

The Department 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.

It is not clear if this bill is proposing to acknowledge and continue the current non-school hour services funded by DHS, or to establish new non-school hour services and increase funding for these new programs. The Department respectfully requests that should the Legislature appropriate TANF federal funds for this Act, 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.