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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO YOUTH.

**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 the children, or fifteen  
3 million, are left alone and unsupervised after school. Thirty  
4 per cent, or nearly four million, of middle school students are  
5 left unsupervised until their parents return home from work.

6           The legislature further finds that juvenile violence peaks  
7 in the after-school hours on school days and in the evenings on  
8 nonschool days. Sixty-three per cent of violent crimes  
9 committed by juveniles occur on school days, while nearly one-  
10 fifth of all juvenile violent crimes occur between the hours of  
11 3:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. During fiscal year 2013, the police  
12 made over three thousand arrests of juveniles between the ages  
13 of twelve and fourteen in Hawaii.

14           The legislature finds that according to the superintendent  
15 of education's annual report of 2011, Hawaii's dropout rate has  
16 reached over sixteen per cent, with a graduation rate of only  
17 around eighty per cent. Nearly half of the high school dropouts  
18 reported that they started high school ill-prepared.



1       The legislature further finds that research indicates that  
2 each disconnected youth costs the taxpayers nearly \$14,000 per  
3 year, which can continue and even increase in the future as some  
4 disenfranchised youth become part of the juvenile justice  
5 system. The stakes of youth disengagement are high. Once  
6 students are disconnected, recruitment, enrollment, and  
7 retention programs require stronger and more persistent  
8 outreach, more intensive services, and more long-term  
9 participation.

10       Middle and intermediate school years are a pivotal time for  
11 our keiki, a time when they can succumb to peer pressure and  
12 significantly derail their education and futures. Accordingly,  
13 participation in high-quality after-school programs can lead to  
14 improved school attendance, better behavior, and better academic  
15 performance. Keeping our keiki engaged in positive after-school  
16 activities will help to keep them on the path toward graduation  
17 and productive futures.

18       Currently, there are approximately thirty-nine thousand  
19 middle and intermediate public school students in Hawaii.  
20 Approximately half of the roughly fifty-one middle and  
21 intermediate schools in the State receive some federal or state



1 funding for after-school programing; however, funding is  
2 inconsistent or unreliable.

3       The legislature finds that in March 2013, the lieutenant  
4 governor established the resources for enrichment, athletics,  
5 culture, and health (R.E.A.C.H.) initiative to develop a  
6 standardized framework and funding for after-school programs for  
7 public middle and intermediate school students throughout the  
8 State. The establishment of a state-subsidized after-school  
9 program for middle and intermediate public school students is  
10 important to the future of our keiki and the welfare of our  
11 State as a whole.

12       The legislature further finds that the office of youth  
13 services, within the department of human services, provides  
14 comprehensive front end services and programs for youth to  
15 prevent delinquency and reduce the incidence of recidivism. The  
16 office is dedicated to creating opportunities for youth to  
17 develop competencies that foster resiliency and enable them to  
18 achieve a successful transition to young adulthood. The  
19 legislature determines that the objectives of the R.E.A.C.H.  
20 initiative are wholly aligned with those of the office of youth  
21 services.

22       The purpose of this Act is to:



- 1 (1) Statutorily establish the R.E.A.C.H. program within  
2 the office of youth services to provide a standardized  
3 framework for operations and provide funding for  
4 after-school programs in public middle and  
5 intermediate schools;
- 6 (2) Establish a special fund to receive fees and other  
7 moneys to help meet the costs of administering and  
8 operating the program;
- 9 (3) Appropriate funds for establishing the R.E.A.C.H.  
10 program to provide funding for after-school programs  
11 in middle and intermediate public schools; and
- 12 (4) Establish one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) position  
13 to support the program and appropriate funds for that  
14 position.

15 SECTION 2. Chapter 352D, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
16 amended by adding three new sections to be appropriately  
17 designated and to read as follows:

18 **"§352D-A Resources for enrichment, athletics, culture, and**  
19 **health (R.E.A.C.H.) program; established.** There is established  
20 the resources for enrichment, athletics, culture, and health  
21 program, hereinafter referred to as the R.E.A.C.H. program,  
22 within the office.



1           §352D-B R.E.A.C.H. program; powers and duties of the  
 2 office. (a) The office shall provide funding to establish,  
 3 support, or enhance after-school programs in public middle and  
 4 intermediate schools. The office may enter into contracts with  
 5 middle and intermediate schools, individuals, organizations, or  
 6 other entities to provide after-school programs to public middle  
 7 and intermediate schools.

- 8           (b) The office shall:
- 9           (1) Establish criteria and application, selection, and  
 10           award processes for funding after-school programs;
  - 11           (2) Monitor the after-school programs within each school;
  - 12           (3) Conduct site evaluations for schools with after-school  
 13           programs funded under the R.E.A.C.H. program; and
  - 14           (4) Ensure each after-school program meets contractual  
 15           expectations.

16           (c) The office may establish participation fees and other  
 17 charges to be assessed to each student for the cost of  
 18 administering and operating the R.E.A.C.H. program. The  
 19 revenues shall be deposited into the special fund established  
 20 pursuant to section 352D-C and shall be used to supplement the  
 21 costs of administering and operating the program.

1        §352D-C R.E.A.C.H. program special fund. (a) There is  
2        established the R.E.A.C.H. program special fund to be  
3        administered by the office.

4        (b) The R.E.A.C.H. program special fund shall consist of:

5        (1) Fees collected by the office for administering and  
6        operating the R.E.A.C.H. program, and for the  
7        provision of program services;

8        (2) Legislative appropriations;

9        (3) All interest earned on the deposit or investment of  
10       moneys in the R.E.A.C.H. program special fund; and

11       (4) Any other moneys made available to the R.E.A.C.H.  
12       program special fund from any other sources.

13       (c) Moneys in the R.E.A.C.H. program special fund shall be  
14       used to supplement the costs of administering and operating  
15       after-school programs in middle and intermediate public schools.

16       Moneys in the R.E.A.C.H. program special fund may also be used  
17       to:

18       (1) Hire personnel to implement, operate, and oversee  
19       after-school programs;

20       (2) Promote after-school program activities;

21       (3) Conduct after-school enrichment activities related to  
22       the R.E.A.C.H. program;



- 1        (4) Contract for services for after-school programs; and
- 2        (5) Fund associated expenses for after-school programs."

3        SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
4 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$                    or so  
5 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2014-2015 to be  
6 deposited into the R.E.A.C.H. program special fund.

7        SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the R.E.A.C.H.  
8 program special fund the sum of \$                    or so much thereof  
9 as may be necessary for fiscal year 2014-2015 to carry out the  
10 purpose of this Act, including the establishment and operation  
11 of the R.E.A.C.H. program and hiring of one full-time equivalent  
12 (1.0 FTE) position for the office of youth services.

13        The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of  
14 human services for the purposes of this Act.

15        SECTION 5. In codifying the new sections added by section  
16 2 of this Act, the revisor of statutes shall substitute  
17 appropriate section numbers for the letters used in designating  
18 the new sections in this Act.

19        SECTION 6. New statutory material is underscored.

20        SECTION 7. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



**Report Title:**

Youth; After-school Programs; R.E.A.C.H. Program; Appropriation

**Description:**

Statutorily establishes the Resources for Enrichment, Athletics, Culture, and Health (R.E.A.C.H.) program within the Office of Youth Services to provide after-school programs in public middle and intermediate schools. Establishes a special fund. Appropriates funds to establish the program and one full-time position. Effective July 1, 2050. (SD1)

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

