

SCR187 / SR122

Measure Title: ENCOURAGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO ESTABLISH A PILOT YOUTH DEVELOPMENT FLAG RUGBY PROGRAM AIMED AT REDUCING RISKY BEHAVIORS AND INCARCERATION RATES AMONG NATIVE HAWAIIAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER YOUTH.

Report Title: Department of Education; Youth Development Program; Flag Rugby; Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander Youth

Description:

Companion:

Package: None

Current Referral: EDU, WAM

Introducer(s): DELA CRUZ, CHUN OAKLAND, GALUTERIA, KAHELE, KIDANI, NISHIHARA, SHIMABUKURO, Wakai

| <u>Sort by Date</u> | | Status Text |
|---------------------|---|---|
| 3/13/2015 | S | Offered. |
| 3/23/2015 | S | Referred to EDU, WAM. |
| 3/23/2015 | S | The committee(s) on EDU has scheduled a public hearing on 03-30-15 1:15PM in conference room 229. |



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Date: 03/30/2015
Time: 1:15 PM
Location: 229
Committee: Senate Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Resolution: SCR 187/SR122 Department of Education; Youth Development Program; Flag Rugby; Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander Youth

Purpose of Resolution: Encouraging the Department of Education to establish a pilot youth development flag rugby program aimed at reducing risky behaviors and incarceration rates among Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander youth.

Department's Position:

The Department of Education (Department) supports SCR187/SR122 in establishing a pilot youth development flag rugby program aimed at reducing risky behaviors and incarceration rates among Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander youth.

The Department successfully established Intermediate Athletics and afterschool programs in the Kau Keau Paho and Nanakuli Waianae Complex Areas and has robust Out-of-School Programs in the Castle Kahuku Complex Area. With community support, the Department plans to introduce interschool, intramural flag rugby leagues to all middle/intermediate students at Kahuku High & Intermediate, Kau High & Pahala Elementary, Keau Middle, Governor Samuel Wilder King Intermediate, Nanakuli High & Intermediate, Paho High & Intermediate, and Waianae Intermediate.

The resolution provides an opportunity to engage, inspire and develop young people, through the use of Flag Rugby. Play Rugby USA's "Value in Action Framework" offers an effective method in reducing the risk factors for young boys and girls, and gives them an opportunity to develop through a trained youth development mentor during the peak hours from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. when children are likely to commit crimes or be victims of crimes and experiment with drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, and sex.

The Department recognizes that community support is needed to fund costs associated with this pilot and looks forward to partnering with many community stakeholders to build a successful program.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.



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TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE
COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

DATE: MONDAY, MARCH 30, 2015

RE SCR 187 / SR 122

PERSON TESTIFYING: JOAN LEWIS, VICE PRESIDENT
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

The Honorable Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Harimoto and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association (HSTA) **supports SCR187 / SR 122** “that the Department of Education is encouraged to establish a pilot youth development flag rugby program aimed at engaging Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander youth for the purpose of reducing risky behaviors and incarceration rates...”

HSTA has long supported the need for athletic programs for intermediate and middle school students. We support efforts to provide students with opportunities to challenge themselves in safe environments. It would be our expectation that the Department of Education would engage in all due diligence in ensuring safety for all.

HSTA appreciates the Legislature recognizing the important contributions other organizations provide when partnering with the Department of Education for the purpose of reducing risky behavior.

HSTA **support SCR187 / SR 122**



SCR187

ENCOURAGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO ESTABLISH A PILOT YOUTH DEVELOPMENT FLAG RUGBY PROGRAM AIMED AT REDUCING RISKY BEHAVIORS AND INCARCERATION RATES AMONG NATIVE HAWAIIAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER YOUTH

Senate Committee on Education

March 30, 2015

1:15 p.m.

Room 329

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) Administration will recommend that the Board of Trustees **SUPPORT** SCR187 which asks that the Department of Education administer a pilot youth development flag rugby program aimed at reducing risky behaviors and incarceration rates among Native Hawaiian and Pacific Island Youth.

In 2010, OHA produced a comprehensive report detailing the overrepresentation and disparate treatment of Native Hawaiians in the criminal justice system. This report found that Native Hawaiian youth are disproportionately represented in the juvenile justice system, and are also most frequently arrested in all offense categories.¹ Accordingly, in its 2012 report, noted that early intervention in the lives of at-risk Native Hawaiian youth to disrupt the cycle of intergenerational incarceration is a key concern within the Native Hawaiian community.²

A pilot flag rugby program could fill the current void of after-school athletics activities for public middle and intermediate school students in targeted at-risk areas with high concentrations of Native Hawaiians. Play Rugby USA offers a character-building model of athletic participation which is inclusive to all ages, genders, and ability levels with low costs for development and equipment. The program seeks to impart athletic and life skills to children that can transfer to various high school athletics and to their relationships and lives inside and outside the classroom. This pilot project may offer many Native Hawaiian 'ōpio, including female youth, at this highly impressionable and vulnerable middle school age who live in economically disadvantaged communities the kind of positive support and physical, social, and educational stimulation that keep them motivated and engaged and prevent the beginning of risky behaviors.

OHA has and continues to provide financial support for after school programs, particularly when it furthers OHA's Ho'ona'auao (Education) strategic result to increase

¹ THE OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS, THE DISPARATE TREATMENT OF NATIVE HAWAIIANS IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM 68 (2010), http://www.oha.org/sites/default/files/ir_final_web_rev.pdf.

² 2012 NATIVE HAWAIIAN JUSTICE TASK FORCE REP. sec. C, at 21, sec. C, at 28, <http://www.oha.org/nativehawaiianjusticetaskforce>.

the percentage of Native Hawaiians that meet and exceed reading and math standards. OHA provided funding for multiple after school programs during the 2014 – 2015 and 2015 – 2016 biennium, including R.E.A.C.H., After School All Stars Hawai‘i, Goodwill Industries of Hawaii, and the Boys and Girls Clubs of Maui. If OHA receives its general fund requests for fiscal years 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 we will be able to substantially increase our community grants awards to close the achievement gaps that threaten to undermine the future success of Native Hawaiian students.

Therefore, OHA urges the Committee to **PASS** SCR187. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify on this measure.