



OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
STATE OF HAWAII
STATE CAPITOL
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

SHAN S. TSUTSUI
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

TESTIMONY OF
THE OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
TO THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

HOUSE BILL NO. 397, HOUSE DRAFT 1
Relating to After-School Programs

February 11, 2015

Chair Takumi, Vice Chair Ohno, and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **strong support** of House Bill No. 397, House Draft 1. This measure seeks to establish a program that will provide after-school programs in public middle and intermediate schools throughout the state of Hawaii. R.E.A.C.H., which is an acronym for resources for enrichment, athletics, culture and health is an initiative aimed at keeping Hawaii's youth engaged and excited about learning during the after-school hours so they can stay on the right path towards high school graduation and be better prepared for future success. Programs offered will be from three general categories: academic enrichment, arts and culture, and athletics.

The middle school years are a critical time in a child's life where disengagement can start to take hold. The stakes of disengagement are high. Once students disconnect, recruitment and retention programs require stronger, more persistent outreach and more long-term participation. Juvenile crime, drug rehabilitation, counseling and other forms of intervention result in higher costs to taxpayers. The bottom line is that after-school programs keep kids on the path that leads to high school, college, career, and ultimately, a better quality of life. This bill addresses a critical need for Hawaii's middle school students.

This bill establishes new sections under Chapter 352D, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to create the R.E.A.C.H. program in the Office of Youth Services in order to provide a standardized framework for after-school programs offered in public middle/intermediate schools. The program would be administered by the Office of Youth Services. Last year, the Legislature provided funding to support the R.E.A.C.H. program for FY15.

Eleven public middle/intermediate schools have thus far benefited from FY15 funding, including one public charter school.

Provisions in the bill allow for participation fees to be established which would serve to supplement the cost of administering and operating the program and enhance the sustainability of R.E.A.C.H. Additionally, the Office of Youth Services is dedicated to creating opportunities for the youth to develop competencies that foster resiliency and enable them to achieve a successful transition to young adulthood. The objectives of the R.E.A.C.H. initiative are wholly aligned with the objectives of the Office of Youth Services. Over the past year, our office has worked collaboratively with the Department of Education (DOE), the Office of Youth Services, and a working group of middle school principals and DOE administrators to develop both the pilot project and the long-term structure for R.E.A.C.H. In addition to the working group, an Advisory Board comprised of well-known community leaders committed to improving outcomes for Hawaii's youth was also established to provide insight, guidance, and support for this important initiative.

In conclusion, we would like to thank the legislature for its support with the pilot project and initial funding for a R.E.A.C.H. program for FY15. We hope that we can continue to build upon what has been started. The Office of the Lieutenant Governor **strongly supports** HB 397, HD 1 and respectfully urges the passage of this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

DAVID IGE
GOVERNOR



CATHERINE PAYNE
CHAIRPERSON

STATE OF HAWAII
STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION
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FOR: HB 397 HD1 Relating to Afterschool Programs
DATE: Wednesday, February 11, 2015
TIME: 2:00 p.m.
COMMITTEE(S): House Committee on Education
ROOM: Conference Room 309
FROM: Tom Hutton, Executive Director
State Public Charter School Commission

Chair Takumi, Vice Chair Ohno, and members of the Committee:

The State Public Charter School Commission (“Commission”) appreciates the opportunity to submit this written testimony with comments only on House Bill 397, “Relating to Afterschool Programs,” which would establish the R.E.A.C.H. program and provide funding for afterschool programs in public middle schools.

The Commission requests that a definition for “public schools” be added to section 352D-3, Hawaii Revised Statutes (“HRS”), to mean any school that falls within the definition of “public schools” as defined in section 302-101, HRS. This would make it clear that the R.E.A.C.H. program serves public charter schools as well as Department of Education schools.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

HAWAII YOUTH SERVICES NETWORK

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Bobby Benson Center
Catholic Charities Hawaii
Child and Family Service
Coalition for a Drug Free Hawaii
Courage House Hawaii
Domestic Violence Action Center
EPIC, Inc.
Family Programs Hawaii
Family Support Hawaii
Hale Kipa, Inc.
Hale 'Opio Kauai, Inc.
Hawaii Behavioral Health
Hawaii Student Television
Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies Coalition
Hina Mauka Teen Care
Hui Malama Learning Center
Kaanalike
Kahi Mohala Behavioral Health
KEY (Kualoa-Heeia Ecumenical Youth)
Project
Kids Hurt Too
Kokua Kalihi Valley
Life Foundation
Marimed Foundation
Maui Youth and Family Services
Palama Settlement
P.A.R.E.N.T.S., Inc.
Parents and Children Together (PACT)
Planned Parenthood of Hawaii
REAL
Salvation Army Family Intervention Svcs.
Salvation Army Family Treatment Svcs.
Sex Abuse Treatment Center
Susannah Wesley Community Center
The Catalyst Group
The Children's Alliance of Hawaii
Waikiki Health Center
Women Helping Women
YWCA of Kauai

February 9, 2015

To: Representative Roy Takumi, Chair
And members of the Committee on Education

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 397 HD 1 RELATING TO AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS

Hawaii Youth Services Network (HYSN), a statewide coalition of youth-serving organizations, supports HB 397 HD 1 Relating to Afterschool Programs.

High quality after-school programs are effective in reducing the risk of a variety of undesirable behaviors among adolescents, including unplanned pregnancy, sexually transmitted infections, juvenile crime, and substance abuse. They can increase school achievement, reduce dropout rates, and provide service learning opportunities that teach young people the value of contributing back to their communities.

Hawaii has the highest percentage of households in the United States in which all adults are employed. These working families need after school programs to ensure that children are safe and engaged in productive activities.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Judith F. Clark, MPH

Dr. Tom Apple
President/Treasurer

Duane E. Kurisu
Vice President

Lori Ann C. Lum
Director

Tyler Tokioka
Director

Lt. Governor Shan S. Tsutsui
Director

Jayson M. Watts
Executive Director/Board
Secretary



TESTIMONY OF
DR. TOM APPLE
AND THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF REACH OUT HAWAII
TO THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

HOUSE BILL NO. 397, HOUSE DRAFT 1
Relating to Afterschool Programs

February 11, 2015

Dear Chair Takumi and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in *strong support* of House Bill No. 397, House Draft 1.

I am Tom Apple, Professor of Chemistry and former Chancellor of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa and also President of a non-profit organization called REACH Out Hawai'i which was established a little over a year ago to support the state's R.E.A.C.H. initiative of developing a comprehensive framework for after-school programs for public middle and intermediate schools throughout the state.

Our mission at REACH Out Hawai'i is to leverage resources from the private and public sector to build a sustainable funding base for high quality programs that keep our kids engaged in learning so they can succeed in school and in life.

As an active Professor of Chemistry and the former Chancellor of the state's flagship public institution for higher education, I have a personal stake in promoting and supporting R.E.A.C.H. as middle schools are the pipeline to higher education. We are all far too familiar with the need to increase both our high school graduation and college going rates. In order to affect this, we need to place more attention at the middle school level and this bill will achieve this. The need to leverage the power of expanded learning opportunities after school has never been greater as our world has become increasingly complex. We have come to realize that instructional hours alone cannot support all of the learning needs required to adequately prepare Hawai'i's youth not only for higher education, but for a career in the 21st century and a globally competitive job market.

We *strongly support* HB 397, HD 1 and respectfully urge the passage of this bill. The bill addresses a critical need for Hawai'i's middle school students.

Thank you for your continued commitment to our keiki and the opportunity to testify.

