



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 JOINT  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES & SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION  
  
SENATE BILL 2231  
RELATING TO AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS**

Chair Chun Oakland, Chair Kidani, and Members of the Joint Committee:

The Office of the Lieutenant Governor supports Senate Bill 2231, Relating to After-school programs. This measure formally establishes the R.E.A.C.H. (resources for enrichment, athletics, culture, and health) program in the office of youth services to provide a standardized framework and funding for after-school programs in public middle and intermediate schools and authorizes participating schools to assess and collect fees.

The middle school years are a critical time in a child's life where disengagement can start to take hold, and 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 families and the taxpayer. The bottom line is that high quality 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.

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. Since 2013, the Lieutenant Governor and his 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 FY15, 31 out of 54 public middle and intermediate schools applied for R.E.A.C.H. funding – of those 31, 19 were selected – 9 of those 19 were funded in the previous year.

The Office of the Lieutenant Governor supports SB 2231 and respectfully urges the passage of this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



CATHERINE PAYNE  
CHAIRPERSON

STATE OF HAWAII  
**STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION**  
**('AHA KULA HO'ĀMANA)**

<http://CharterCommission.Hawaii.Gov>  
1111 Bishop Street, Suite 516, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
Tel: (808) 586-3775 Fax: (808) 586-3776

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FOR: SB 2231 Relating to After-School Programs  
DATE: Friday, February 05, 2016  
TIME: 1:15 PM  
COMMITTEE(S): Senate Committee on Education  
Senate Committee on Human Services  
ROOM: Conference Room 229  
FROM: Tom Hutton, Executive Director  
State Public Charter School Commission

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**Testimony in support of SB 2231**

Chairs Kidani and Chun Oakland, Vice Chairs Harimoto and Riviere, and members of the Committee:

The State Public Charter School Commission appreciates the opportunity to submit this testimony in support of Senate Bill 2231, "Relating to After-School Programs." The Commission is grateful to the sponsors of this bill for its continued support of our middle school students and the inclusion of public charter schools in this impactful program that provides our students with the needed support to continue on the path of positive growth and success later in life.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
**OFFICE OF YOUTH SERVICES**  
707 Richards Street, Suite 525  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

February 4, 2016

TO: The Honorable Michelle N. Kidani, Chair  
Senate Committee on Education

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

FROM: Merton Chinen, Acting Executive Director

SUBJECT: **TESTIMONY RE: SB 2231 - RELATING TO AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS**

Hearing: Friday, February 5, 2016, 1:15 p.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 229

**OFFICE'S POSITION:** The Office of Youth Services (OYS) supports this measure.

There are several common denominators in the lives of our at-risk youth, including but not limited to: a lack of connectedness, a sense of not belonging, and failure in school. These factors all lead to poor decision making – which is evidenced by the fact that middle school aged children represent nearly ½ of all first time juvenile arrests in our state.

Providing quality after school programming for middle schoolers through afterschool programs will address those very issues – relationships, connections and school engagement will positively impact school attendance and success.

Currently, there are 19 middle/intermediate schools statewide receiving Resources for Enrichment, Athletics, Culture, and Health) R.E.A.C.H funds, including ten schools on Oahu, six on Hawaii Island, one on Maui, one on Molokai and one on Kauai. These schools have introduced programming ranging from robotics to band, tutoring to athletics, and cultural programming to health and nutrition.

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this measure is to establish the resources for enrichment, athletics, culture and health (R.E.A.C.H.) program in the Office of Youth Services (OYS) to

The Honorable Michelle N. Kidani  
The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland  
February 4, 2016  
Page 2

provide a standardized framework and funding for after-schools programs in public middle and intermediate schools. This measure also establishes program requirements and participation fees or other charges to be assessed to each participant for the cost of administering and operating the R.E.A.C.H.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.



250 Vineyard Street  
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**FamilyProgramsHawaii.com**

TO: *Committee on Education*  
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair  
Senator Breene Harimoto, Vice Chair  
*Committee on Human Services*  
Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair  
Senator Gil Riviere, Vice Chair

HEARING: Friday, February 5, 2016  
1:15 PM  
Conference Room 229

FROM: Paulette Bethel, PhD, MPA  
Family Programs Hawaii

RE: SB2231 - Relating to Afterschool Programs

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. I am the President and CEO for Family Programs Hawaii and we strongly support SB2231.

We agree that middle school years are a pivotal time for students and that without the proper scaffolding “they can significantly derail their education and futures”. This is especially true for middle school children in foster care. This bill will help Hawaii’s children and their families and will be especially helpful for children and families in the foster care system.

After-school programs represent an upfront investment in Hawaii’s youth to keep them engaged in positive, prosocial programs and activities. For Family Programs Hawaii, experience has taught us that children in the foster care system benefit immensely from these type programs. We also know from research that without organized or a consistent method of preparing foster youth for adulthood many of them fail to survive on their own (Festinger, 1983). A University of Chicago study (Hall, 2010) found that children of foster care often experienced poor outcomes to a lack of available learning opportunities and access to emotional support due to a lack of access to educated and caring adults.

Making after school programs available to middle school age children of Hawaii will help them develop skills and experience, benefits they can carry with them wherever they go. Additionally, having the opportunity to participate in these programs provides protection against delinquency and recidivism. A study appearing in the American Journal of Nursing

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(Rajalakshmi & Thanasekaran, 2015) describes the effects of being a middle school aged latchkey child experiencing greater risk of susceptibility to peer pressure, such as alcohol abuse, drug abuse, sexual promiscuity and smoking as well as experiencing difficulties adapting to difficult situation. Issues of loneliness can lead to higher levels of behavioral problems, higher rates of depression and lower levels of self-esteem compared with other students.

Specifically for youth in foster care, who often do not have access to siblings, after-school programs like this can also add a sense of normalcy in their lives, something that is crucial to healthy development in all adolescents. Afterschool programs offer the potential to add another layer of protection to help to prevent our foster children from ending up homeless, unemployed, and impoverished, outcomes that are disproportionately high for foster children. These programs provide greater opportunities for positive socialization with peers and give access to caring adults in ways that increase their sense of normalcy and well-being.

We agree that the establishment of this program is important to the future of Hawaii's youth and the welfare of the State as a whole. Therefore, we strongly support SB2231.

Thank you for the opportunity to support this bill.

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TO: *Committee on Education*  
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair  
Senator Breene Harimoto, Vice Chair  
*Committee on Human Services*  
Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair  
Senator Gil Riviere, Vice Chair

HEARING: Friday, February 5, 2016  
1:15 PM  
Conference Room 229

FROM: Judith Wilhoite  
Family Advocate  
It Takes An Ohana

RE: SB2231 - Relating to Afterschool Programs

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. I am the Family Advocate for Family Program Hawaii's *It Takes An Ohana* program and a resource caregiver. We support SB2231.

This bill will help Hawaii's foster children and their resource caregivers. There are two fundamental goals of fostering. They are to help biological families reconnect whenever possible and to provide foster children with opportunities to heal and acquire healthy life skills while they are in our homes.

As stated in the bill, after-school programs represent an upfront investment in Hawaii's youth. Foster children, more than almost any other children, are in need of this investment, for they are at risk of worse life outcomes than their peers. Making after school programs available to middle school age foster children will help them develop skills and experience, things they can take with them no matter where they go. Additionally, being able to participate in these programs will also provide a sense of normalcy to our foster children, something that is crucial to healthy development in adolescents.

We agree that the establishment of this program is important to the future of Hawaii's opio and the welfare of the State as a whole and strongly support SB2231.

Thank you for this opportunity to support this bill.

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# HAWAII YOUTH SERVICES NETWORK

677 Ala Moana Boulevard, Suite 904 Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

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Web site: <http://www.hysn.org> E-mail: [info@hysn.org](mailto:info@hysn.org)

Rick Collins, President

Judith F. Clark, Executive  
Director

Big Brothers Big Sisters of  
Hawaii

Bobby Benson Center

Central Oahu Youth Services  
Association

Child and Family Service

Coalition for a Drug Free Hawaii

Domestic Violence Action Center

EPIC, Inc.

Family Programs Hawaii

Family Support Hawaii

Hale Kipa, Inc.

Hale 'Opio Kauai, Inc.

Hawaii Student Television

Hui Malama Learning Center

Kokua Kalihi Valley

Life Foundation

Marimed Foundation

Maui Youth and Family Services

P.A.R.E.N.T.S., Inc.

Parents and Children Together  
(PACT)

Planned Parenthood of the  
Great Northwest and  
Hawaiian Islands

Salvation Army Family

Intervention Services

Sex Abuse Treatment Center

Susannah Wesley Community  
Center

The Catalyst Group

Uhane Pohaku Na Moku

O Hawai'i

Waikiki Health

February 2, 2016

To: Senator Michelle Kidani, Chair  
And members of the Committee on Education

Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair  
And members of the Committee on Human Services

## **TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2231 RELATING TO AFTER- SCHOOL PROGRAMS**

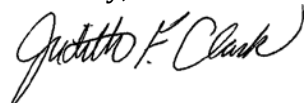
Hawaii Youth Services Network (HYSN), a statewide coalition of youth-serving organizations, supports SB 2231 Relating to After-school Programs.

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  
Executive Director





From: [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
To: [HMS Testimony](#)  
Cc: [bonnieosaki@gmail.com](mailto:bonnieosaki@gmail.com)  
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2231 on Feb 5, 2016 13:15PM  
Date: Thursday, February 04, 2016 3:23:39 PM

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**SB2231**

Submitted on: 2/4/2016

Testimony for HMS/EDU on Feb 5, 2016 13:15PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Bonnie Oda	Individual	Support	No

Comments: February 4, 2016 Senate Committee on Education Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair Senator Breene Harimoto, Vice Chair Senate Committee on Human Services Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair Senator Gil Riviere, Vice Chair Conference Room 229 Re: Support of SB 2231: RELATING TO AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS. Dear Chairs Kidani and Chun Oakland and Vice Chairs Harimoto and Riviere, and Committee Members: I strongly support Senate Bill 2231, which seeks to establish the R.E.A.C.H. program in the office of Youth Services to provide a standardized framework and funding for after-school programs in public middle and intermediate schools. The "2014 America After 3PM" report, published by the national Afterschool Alliance, articulates some relevant and important statistics: • 93% of Hawai'i parents support public funding for afterschool programs, • 86% of Hawai'i parents agree that afterschool programs give working parents peace of mind about their children when they are at work, • 72% of parents in Hawai'i agree that afterschool programs help parents keep their jobs, • 75% of Hawai'i parents agree that afterschool programs reduce the likelihood that youth will engage in risky behaviors, and • 62% of the parents in Hawai'i agree that afterschool programs excite children about learning. These numbers provide strong reasoning for protecting and supporting Hawai'i's quality afterschool programs. In conclusion, I strongly support SB2231 and respectfully urges the passage of this bill so that students in Hawai'i have the support they need to participate in a high-quality afterschool program. Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Sincerely, Bonnie Oda

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**Cc:** [jbickel15@yahoo.com](mailto:jbickel15@yahoo.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB2231 on Feb 5, 2016 13:15PM  
**Date:** Thursday, February 04, 2016 3:14:20 PM

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**SB2231**

Submitted on: 2/4/2016

Testimony for HMS/EDU on Feb 5, 2016 13:15PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
John Bickel	Individual	Support	No

Comments: As a teacher I know after school programs keep kids out of trouble and improve their cognitive and social skills. Support them!

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**Cc:** [markzeug@gmail.com](mailto:markzeug@gmail.com)  
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**SB2231**

Submitted on: 2/4/2016

Testimony for HMS/EDU on Feb 5, 2016 13:15PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mark Zeug	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Am in complete support of this effort -- children spend more than 5000 hours a year awake and out of school. Middle school children are most vulnerable and most often left out of afterschool programs. We need this bill.

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**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SB2231 on Feb 5, 2016 13:15PM\*  
**Date:** Thursday, February 04, 2016 4:17:34 PM

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**SB2231**

Submitted on: 2/4/2016

Testimony for HMS/EDU on Feb 5, 2016 13:15PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Paahana Kincaid	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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