
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that, in Hawaii, over
2 fifty-four thousand children are left alone and unsupervised
3 until their parents return home from work each day. Yet,
4 according to the Afterschool Alliance, seventy-five per cent of
5 Hawaii parents agree that after-school programs can reduce the
6 likelihood that youth will engage in risky behavior and ninety-
7 three per cent support public funding of after-school programs.
8 The legislature further finds that while Hawaii continues to be
9 among the states with high participation rates, that rate has
10 been declining from thirty-five per cent in 2004, to twenty-
11 eight per cent in 2009, and twenty-six per cent in 2014.
12 Juvenile violence peaks in the after-school hours on school days
13 and in the evenings on non-school days. Sixty-five per cent of
14 violent crimes committed by juveniles occur on school days,
15 while nearly one-fifth of all juvenile violent crimes occur
16 between the hours of three and seven o'clock in the evening.
17 During fiscal year 2012-2013, the police made over three



1 thousand arrests of juveniles in Hawaii between the ages of
2 twelve and fourteen.

3 The legislature additionally finds that after-school
4 programming represents an upfront investment in Hawaii's youth
5 and that higher participation rates in other states may be due
6 to significant state funding dedicated specifically to expanding
7 the availability of after-school programs. According to the
8 superintendent's twenty-fifth annual report published in October
9 2015, Hawaii's dropout rate has reached nearly fifteen per cent
10 with a graduation rate of only around eighty-two per cent.
11 Nearly half of the high school dropouts reported that they
12 started high school ill-prepared. Research indicates that each
13 disconnected youth costs taxpayers nearly \$14,000 per year,
14 which can continue and even increase in the future as some
15 disenfranchised youth become part of the juvenile justice court
16 systems. The stakes of disengagement are high. Once students
17 are disconnected, recruitment, enrollment, and retention into
18 programs require stronger and more persistent outreach, more
19 intensive services, and more long-term participation.

20 The legislature also finds that middle school years are a
21 pivotal time for the State's haumana, or students. This is a



1 time when middle school students can succumb to peer pressure
2 and significantly derail their education and futures.
3 Accordingly, participation in high-quality after-school programs
4 can lead to improved attendance, better behavior, and better
5 academic performance. Keeping the State's youth engaged in
6 positive after-school activities will help keep them on the path
7 toward graduation and productive futures. Currently, there are
8 approximately twenty-six thousand public middle and intermediate
9 school students in the State. Some schools receive federal or
10 state funding for after-school programming; however, this
11 funding is inconsistent or unreliable.

12 The legislature further finds that in March 2013, the
13 administration, through the lieutenant governor, established the
14 R.E.A.C.H. initiative, which stands for "resources for
15 enrichment, athletics, culture, and health," to develop a
16 framework and funding base for after-school programs for public
17 middle and intermediate school students throughout the State.
18 The legislature additionally finds that the establishment of a
19 state-subsidized after-school program for public middle and
20 intermediate school students is important to the future of
21 Hawaii's 'opio and the welfare of the State as a whole.



1 The legislature also finds that since its inception, the
2 R.E.A.C.H. initiative has provided over \$2,250,000 in funding
3 for after-school programs, including thirty-nine schools
4 throughout all counties in the State. The legislature further
5 finds that this funding has been instrumental during the
6 vulnerable middle and intermediate school years and has
7 manifested positive impacts on the lives of these students
8 inside and outside the classroom. The legislature finds,
9 however, that a dedicated program with reliable funding is
10 necessary to provide continued and uninterrupted services in
11 middle and intermediate schools statewide. The legislature
12 finds that the success of the program hinges on the ability to
13 leverage available state, federal, private, and in-kind
14 resources available to schools. Though not intended to entirely
15 fund the program, the ability to assess fees to help subsidize
16 the program and encourage community involvement is important in
17 ensuring the program's future and sustainability.

18 The purpose of this Act is to provide a standardized
19 framework and funding for after-school programs in public middle
20 and intermediate schools. Specifically, this Act:



- 1 (1) Establishes the R.E.A.C.H. program within the
- 2 department of education;
- 3 (2) Authorizes the department of education to award
- 4 funding for after-school programs and report to the
- 5 legislature on program implementation and use of
- 6 funds; and
- 7 (3) Establishes a special fund to receive fees and other
- 8 moneys to supplement the costs of administering and
- 9 operating the program.

10 SECTION 2. Chapter 302A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
 11 amended by adding three new sections to be appropriately
 12 designated and to read as follows:

13 "§302A-A Resources for enrichment, athletics, culture, and
 14 health (R.E.A.C.H.) program; established. There is established
 15 the resources for enrichment, athletics, culture, and health
 16 (R.E.A.C.H.) program within the department.

17 §302A-B Resources for enrichment, athletics, culture, and
 18 health (R.E.A.C.H.) program; implementation; fees. (a) The
 19 department shall provide funding to establish, support, or
 20 enhance after-school programs in public schools. The department
 21 may enter into contracts with middle schools, individuals,



1 organizations, or other entities to provide after-school
2 programs to public middle schools.

3 (b) The department shall:

4 (1) Establish criteria, application, selection, and award
5 processes for funding after-school programs;

6 (2) Monitor the after-school programs within each school;

7 (3) Conduct site evaluations for schools with after-school
8 programs funded under the R.E.A.C.H. program;

9 (4) Ensure each after-school program meets contractual
10 expectations; and

11 (5) Submit an annual report to the legislature no later
12 than twenty days prior to the convening of each
13 regular session on the implementation of programs and
14 use of funds under the R.E.A.C.H. program, including
15 but not limited to information on grants awarded to
16 provide services to public middle schools, current and
17 future plans to assess or collect fees, and efforts to
18 obtain non-state funding for the financial
19 sustainability of the R.E.A.C.H. program.

20 (c) Pursuant to chapter 91, the department may establish
21 program requirements and participation fees or other charges to



1 be assessed to each student for the cost of administering and
2 operating the R.E.A.C.H. program. The revenues from the
3 collected fees shall be deposited into the R.E.A.C.H. program
4 special fund established in section 302A-C.

5 (d) The R.E.A.C.H. program shall be run by a program
6 specialist who shall be an employee of the department and
7 subject to chapters 76 and 89.

8 §302A-C Resources for enrichment, athletics, culture, and
9 health (R.E.A.C.H.) program special fund. (a) There is
10 established the R.E.A.C.H. program special fund to be
11 administered by the department.

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

13 (1) Fees collected by the department for administering and
14 operating the R.E.A.C.H. program, and the provision of
15 program services;

16 (2) Legislative appropriations;

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

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



1 (c) All moneys in the R.E.A.C.H. program special fund
2 shall be used to supplement the costs of administering and
3 operating the R.E.A.C.H. program. The department may also use
4 the moneys to:

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

7 (2) Promote after-school program activities;

8 (3) Conduct after-school education and demonstration
9 projects;

10 (4) Contract for services for after-school programs; and

11 (5) Fund associated expenses for after-school programs."

12 SECTION 3. Section 302A-101, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
13 amended by adding two new definitions to be appropriately
14 inserted and to read as follows:

15 "Public middle schools" means all academic and noncollege
16 type middle and intermediate schools established and maintained
17 by the department, including charter schools.

18 "R.E.A.C.H. program" means the resources for enrichment,
19 athletics, culture, and health program established pursuant to
20 section 302A-A."



1 SECTION 4. In codifying the new sections added by section
2 2 of this Act, the revisor of statutes shall substitute
3 appropriate section numbers for the letters used in designating
4 the new sections in this Act.

5 SECTION 5. New statutory material is underscored.

6 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.



Report Title:

After-school Programs; Resources for Enrichment, Athletics, Culture, and Health Program; Department of Education; R.E.A.C.H. Program Special Fund

Description:

Establishes the R.E.A.C.H (Resources for Enrichment, Athletics, Culture, and Health) Program in the Department of Education (DOE) to provide a standardized framework and funding for after-school programs in public middle and intermediate schools. Requires the DOE to submit a report to the Legislature. Establishes the R.E.A.C.H. Special Fund to supplement the costs of administering and operating the R.E.A.C.H. Program. (SB500 HD1)

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