



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Education
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SB 2564 – RELATING TO AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kim, and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on SB 2564, relating to after-school programs.

The University of Hawaii at Mānoa, College of Education supports SB 2564 relating to after-school programs for middle and intermediate school students. After-school programs provide middle and intermediate students a means to receive additional resources for enrichment, athletics, culture and health programs as part of their overall educational experiences. After-school programs and activities may also reverse high school drop-out rates and ensuring students remain engaged in their education and community.

Working together, schools, after-school programs, and community partners are better positioned to accelerate students' academic, social, and emotional learning, especially students who have been historically underserved and those with special needs.

Comprehensive after-school programs apply evidence based practices to support the needs of youth, families, and communities. Decades of data show these programs:

- Accelerate students' learning gains and improve their reading and math skills
- Engage youth in learning and boost school attendance
- Support social and emotional development
- Prevent youth violence
- Boost on-time graduation

More funding for the REACH program will help to expand comprehensive, high quality after-school offerings and meet the growing needs of our students and families.

In 2016, the State of Hawai'i requested the Hawai'i Department of Education (HIDOE) to convene a working group to review after-school programs in Hawai'i's public middle and

intermediate schools and make recommendations to the Legislature. The group came to the conclusion that there is an immediate need to increase the funding for out-of-school programs to provide services to all the children and youth, including those with special needs that need and/or would like to participate in a program. Out-of-school programs work as a safety net to support students' success by creating a safe environment where they can thrive.

Thank you for allowing our testimony on SB 2564.