

# The Future of Hawai'i's Out-of-School Time Programs

## Case for Support

***With sustainable funding, Hawai'i could build an out-of-school time (OST) system that better serves families.***

Across our islands, we could ensure that more young people know they have a place to go after school and over the summer. More parents and caregivers would know their kids are safe and cared for when they can't be at home. Youth would be able to pursue their career aspirations, build protective factors, develop workforce and life skills and receive academic support. They could access expanded learning opportunities to help them recover from the most challenging period of their lifetime, helping them improve academic performance levels, which, for many students, have fallen this past school year and continue to lag.

**Hawai'i youth and families need OST programs more than ever before.**

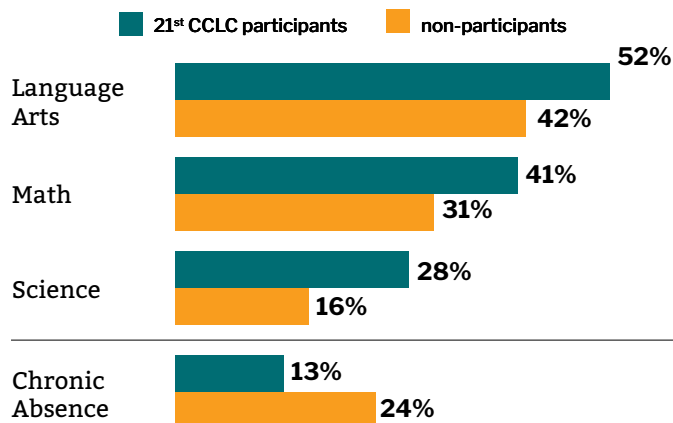
### ► Youth need OST programs to accelerate their learning.

In November 2021, [the Hawai'i Board of Education reported](#) about 66% of students are performing below grade level in English Language Arts, and 75% are performing below grade level in math. OST programs can help accelerate learning; [schools that partner with OST programs](#) report improved student attendance, behavior and academic performance.



In fact, [a 2020 evaluation of Hawai'i's 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers \(21<sup>st</sup> CCLC\) federally funded afterschool programs](#) in the 2018-2019 school year by IMPAQ International LLC found that participants who regularly attend 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC programs meet or exceed proficiency standards, compared with those who did not attend the programs.

% of students meeting or exceeding proficiency standards



► **The demand for OST programs has reached an all-time high.**

Despite evidence that OST programs benefit youth, families and the economy, they are chronically underfunded in Hawai'i, leaving [74,000 youth waiting](#) for an available spot in an OST program.

► **Tens of thousands of youth growing up in households with low incomes need access to OST programs.**

Of these 74,000 youth, [45%](#) (about 33,000) are growing up in households with low incomes and need access to OST programs the most. These programs have [a proven, particularly strong impact on youth](#) in low-income communities.

## **Lack of funding means there are not enough OST programs for families who need them.**

Across the state, unmet demand for OST programs far outweighs the supply for which short-term, patchwork funding streams only allow. In fact, the current available funding does not even cover the costs of operating the high-quality OST programs that exist today, and on some islands just a few high-quality programs exist.

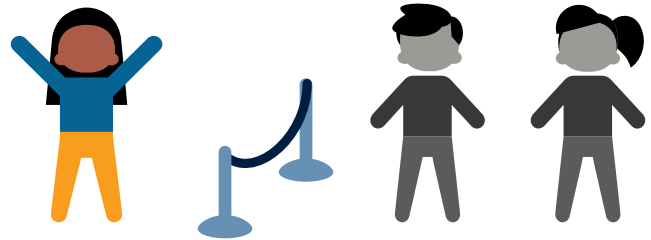
Hawai'i's school-based OST programs only receive, on average, \$700 - \$1,800 per student, per year. However, Hawai'i Afterschool Alliance estimates the actual cost for high-quality, year-round OST programming is \$4,500 - \$5,500 per student, per year.\* Nearly all funding for OST programs comes from the federal government; **only 1.3% comes from the state.**

Our funding sources, even jointly, are inadequate to meet the demand for OST programs and because they are not all braided, they leave programs competing with one another for resources and students to serve. Additionally, the funding primarily supports school-based OST programs, meaning that stand-alone OST programs do not have the same access to public funding.

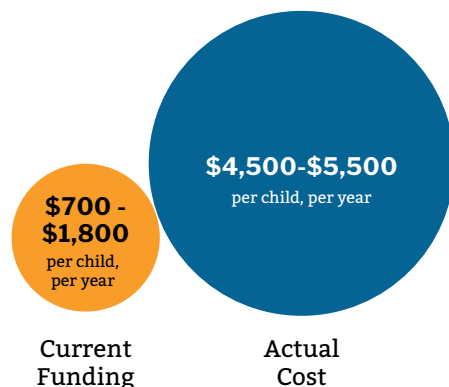
The state distributes \$500,000 annually through the REACH program, but only schools may apply for it, and it is their choice if they would like to share it with a community-based organization that offers OST programming.

The state's \$500,000 investment is far too small to address the large funding gap. It also is not near the level of investments made in OST programming in states across the nation, which is especially concerning as the cost to operate programs in Hawai'i is one of the highest in the nation.\*\*

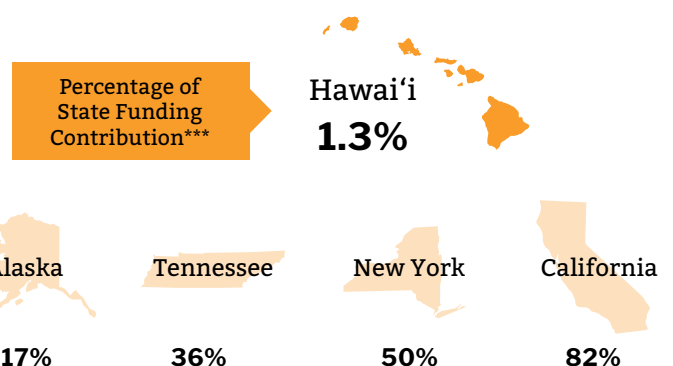
In Hawai'i, for every child in afterschool, **2 more are waiting to get in.**



Hawai'i's Funding Gap for OST Programs is Large



Other States Invest Significantly More State Funding



\*This number is based on school-based programs. For non-school-based programs, the cost per student is \$5,100 - \$6,500. These numbers were calculated in consultation with Hawai'i afterschool providers for high-quality, year-round OST programming with a staff-to-student ratio of 1:15.

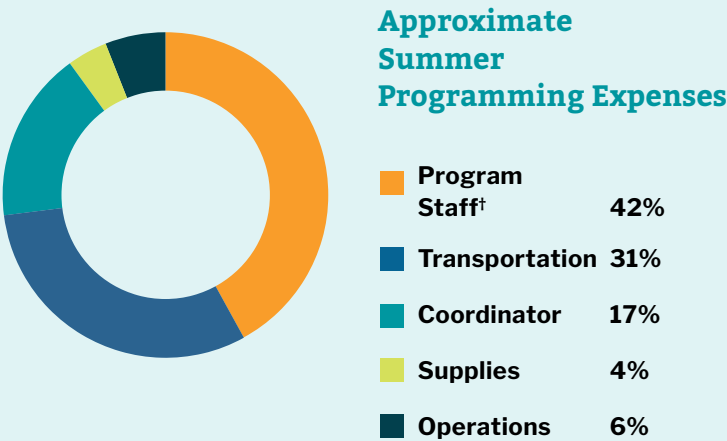
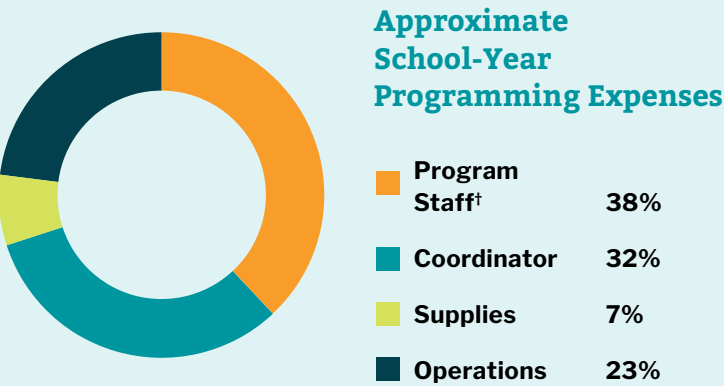
\*\*As calculated by the "Out-of-School Time Cost Calculator" from the Wallace Foundation.

\*\*\*A mix of federal and state dollars fund afterschool programs. The federal government contributes 98.7% of the total funding for afterschool programs in Hawai'i.

We are currently seeking funding to make high-quality OST programs affordable and accessible for any Hawai'i youth who wants to attend.



The charts below depict the recommended budget breakdown, detailing how funds raised will be allocated to operate high-quality programs.



90% of Hawai'i parents support public funding for out-of-school time programs.

† Paying staff a livable wage, recruitment and retention bonuses - Livable wages in Honolulu are approximately \$20/hr according to the [Living Wage Calculator](#)

## Adequate, sustainable funding for OST will ensure:



**Accessibility.** Hawai'i needs more OST programs statewide, especially in neighborhoods with limited opportunities for youth and families. Currently, more than one-third of parents say that there is a lack of programs in their areas for their kids to attend. The programs that are currently open need more capacity to serve students on their waiting lists.



**Affordability.** Programs could be offered for free or at a low cost, which is particularly important for families with low incomes who need more affordable OST options. Currently, 53% of Hawai'i parents say that OST programs are too expensive for them to enroll their child.



**Extended operations.** Hawai'i's working families depend on OST programs. They rely on OST programs to operate five days a week after school and throughout the summer. Funding would ensure programs can operate year-round, as families' work schedules require, 15 hours per week during the school year and 8 hours per day for six weeks over the summer. And funding to open more OST programs means that more families can access the programs they have been waiting for.



**Transportation.** Funding could alleviate accessibility challenges of simply getting to and from OST programs, as many families lack their own means of transportation and Hawai'i's public transportation system is inadequate. Currently, more than 50% of parents report they have no safe way to get their child to and from a program.



**High-quality programming.** Programs would be supported to align with Hawai'i's afterschool quality guidelines, which rely on evidence-based research to yield stronger academic and social and emotional outcomes for youth. Programs would have the ability to be more inclusive by having more resources to serve youth with disabilities. Programs would operate with a 1:15 staff-to-student ratio, as recommended by national experts.



**Strong workforce.** Funding, reflective of the true cost of running high quality programs, would allow for the recruitment and, above all, retention of a strong workforce, earning a living wage. Staff would also be afforded more opportunities for professional development and continuous skill building. Currently, programs' funding doesn't allow providers to pay staff a living wage, impeding their ability to compete with other employers and forcing many talented staff to leave the field.







**Student-centric solutions.** Funding should allow for a full-time, OST time professional program coordinator to be employed. The coordinator would have expertise in creating synergies between the schools and OST programs, building partnerships and leveraging funding across various sources for seamless, high-quality experience for schools, students and families.



The Hawai'i Afterschool Alliance works to ensure that all children in Hawai'i have access to quality afterschool and summer learning programs.

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