



**Join the Hawai'i Afterschool Alliance on October 28, 2021
to Celebrate an Unforgettable Lights On Afterschool!**

Aloha,

Launched in October 2000, [Lights On Afterschool](#) is the only nationwide event celebrating afterschool programs and their important role in the lives of children, families, and communities. The effort, led by the Afterschool Alliance, has become a hallmark of the afterschool movement and generates media coverage across the country each year.

Celebrating Lights On Afterschool is more important now than ever to showcase the importance of afterschool programs and the hard work the out-of-school time community invests in providing for our keiki and 'ōpio! We are asking that you celebrate in some way on October 28th with your programs! Below you will find some ideas and options to celebrate with us whether you're virtual or in-person!

Mahalo,

Paula Adams
Executive Director
Hawai'i Afterschool Alliance

💡 Register Your Lights on Afterschool Celebrations 💡

Please [REGISTER](#) your program on the national database! When you register your event as an official Lights On Afterschool celebration, you'll receive an event starter kit, which includes 10 free posters to help you promote your event, and make you eligible for cool prizes each week. You will be asked to create an account and then are sent to a form to register your event. You can fill in as little or as much information as you would like.

💡 Share on Social Media 💡

Post that you'll be celebrating Lights on Afterschool. You can use these sample [social media posts and graphics](#) from the Afterschool Alliance.

Don't forget to use the hashtags #LightsOnAfterschool and #LightsOnHI



💡 Take the #LightbulbChallenge 💡

Take a photo with your youth (in-person or on zoom) or have them take their own photos [posing like a lightbulb](#). You can [download our Lights On Zoom backgrounds](#) if you're meeting virtually.

Post the photo(s) to social media with the hashtags #LightsOnAfterschool #LightsOnHI #LightbulbChallenge



💡 Create Lightbulb Artwork 💡

Have kids create their own lightbulb artwork, or make it a program challenge. Don't forget to share their lightbulb creations on social media on October 28th using #LightsOnAfterschool and #LightsOnHI

- Younger kids can color lightbulb artwork ([here](#) and [here](#))
- For older youth, challenge them to make digital lightbulb artwork on their phones or computers



💡 Challenge Your Students to a Dance Challenge – Light It Up! 💡

Celebrate Lights On Afterschool by having your afterschool youth take part in the Lights On Afterschool Dance Challenge. Here's how to do it:

1. Have your youth create their own dance to "[Light It Up - Remix](#)" by Major Lazer (start at 0:43 seconds). Their dance can be freestyle, or choreographed, just don't forget to add a light bulb move!
2. Record and share their dance on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter or TikTok. Tag us and use the hashtags #LightsOnAfterschool and #LightsOnHI by October 28th.



Need some dance inspiration? [Watch these youth](#) from Kama'āina Kids and After-School All-Stars Hawai'i do the dance challenge.

#LIGHTSONAFTERSCHOOL #LIGHTSONHI

💡 Hold a Letter Writing Campaign 💡

Youth and family members can use their voice to make a difference and educate key leaders on the importance of afterschool programs. Create a letter writing campaign to policymakers in their community to encourage them to support afterschool programs. Here are instructions on how to host your own letter writing campaign:

1. Find your state legislator by [address](#).
2. Write the letter using these templates:
 - a. **Elementary students** can use this [template](#) to write their letters.
 - b. **Middle and high school students** can use the talking points and structure below to write a letter on this [letterhead](#).
 - c. **Middle school students and families attending a REACH afterschool program** can specifically thank their state legislator for the REACH afterschool program, which is the only state-funded afterschool program in Hawai'i. See REACH template letters below.
 - d. **Parents and family members** can also write letters using the talking points and structure below on this [letterhead](#).
3. Mail or email the letters!
4. Let us know who your students contact! And feel free to email the [Hawai'i Afterschool Alliance](#) if you need any help.



Dear _____

My name is _____, I am a student at _____.

I attend _____
(afterschool program)

I love my afterschool program because _____

My afterschool program helps me to _____

Please join me in celebrating Lights On Afterschool on October 28, 2021
and support afterschool programs by keeping the *Lights On Afterschool!*

Mahalo,

#LIGHTSONAFTERSCHOOL #LIGHTSONHI



#LIGHTSONAFTERSCHOOL #LIGHTSONHI

[Template Letter for Elementary Students](#)

[Letterhead for Middle / High School Student and Family Letters](#)

#LIGHTSONAFTERSCHOOL #LIGHTSONHI

Middle/High Student Letter Template	Family Letter Template
<p>Dear Representative/Senator _____,</p> <p>Paragraph 1: Introduce yourself - include your name, school, and which afterschool program you attend.</p> <p>Paragraph 2: Include 2-3 sentences on why you love your afterschool program, what you gain from attending afterschool, and why it's important for students to be able to go to an afterschool program.</p> <p>Paragraph 3: Invite your policymaker to celebrate Lights On Afterschool on October 28, 2021 and support afterschool programs.</p> <p>Mahalo, Signature</p>	<p>Dear Representative/Senator _____,</p> <p>Paragraph 1: Introduce yourself - include your name, which school your kids attend, and which afterschool program they go to.</p> <p>Paragraph 2: Include 2-3 sentences on why you as a parent love your afterschool program, what your children gain from attending afterschool, and why it's important for your kids to be able to go to an afterschool program.</p> <p>Paragraph 3: Invite your policymaker to celebrate Lights On Afterschool on October 28, 2021 and support afterschool programs.</p> <p>Mahalo, Signature</p>
REACH Student Template	REACH Family Template
<p>Dear Representative/Senator _____,</p> <p>Paragraph 1: Introduce yourself - include your name, school, and that you attend your school's REACH afterschool program.</p> <p>Paragraph 2: Thank your state legislator for their support of the REACH program, the only state funded afterschool program in Hawai'i. Include 2-3 sentences on why you love your afterschool program, what you gain from attending afterschool, and why it's important for students to be able to go to an afterschool program.</p> <p>Paragraph 3: Invite your policymaker to celebrate Lights On Afterschool on October 28, 2021 and support afterschool programs.</p> <p>Mahalo, Signature</p>	<p>Dear Representative/Senator _____,</p> <p>Paragraph 1: Introduce yourself - include your name, which school your kids attend, and that they attend their school's REACH afterschool program.</p> <p>Paragraph 2: Thank your state legislator for their support of the REACH program, the only state funded afterschool program in Hawai'i. Include 2-3 sentences on why you as a parent love your afterschool program, what your children gain from attending afterschool, and why it's important for your kids to be able to go to an afterschool program.</p> <p>Paragraph 3: Invite your policymaker to celebrate Lights On Afterschool on October 28, 2021 and support afterschool programs.</p> <p>Mahalo, Signature</p>



💡 **Connect with Us** 💡

Don't forget to use **#LightsOnAfterschool** and **#LightsOnHI** and tag the Hawai'i Afterschool Alliance in your social media posts!



@afterschoolHI



@hawaiiafterschool



@hawaiiafterschool

Want more ideas? [Click here for more ideas on how to celebrate!](#)

