💡 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.

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**Template Letter for Elementary Students**

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Dear [State Legislator Name],

My name is [Student Name] and I am a student at [School Name]. I attend [School Address]. I love my afterschool program because [Reason]. My afterschool program helps me to [Benefit].

Please join me in celebrating Lights On Afterschool on October 19, 2022 and support afterschool programs by keeping the Lights On Afterschool!

Mahalo,

[Student Signature]
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**Letterhead for Middle / High School Student and Family Letters**

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#LIGHTSONAFTERSCHOOL #LIGHTSONHI
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Middle/High Student Letter Template</th>
<th>Family Letter Template</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Dear Representative/Senator _________,  
Paragraph 1: Introduce yourself - include your name, school, and which afterschool program you attend.  
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.  
Paragraph 3: Invite your policymaker to celebrate Lights On Afterschool on October 19, 2022 and support afterschool programs.  
Mahalo,  
Signature | Dear Representative/Senator _________,  
Paragraph 1: Introduce yourself - include your name, which school your kids attend, and which afterschool program they go to.  
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.  
Paragraph 3: Invite your policymaker to celebrate Lights On Afterschool on October 19, 2022 and support afterschool programs.  
Mahalo,  
Signature |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>REACH Student Template</th>
<th>REACH Family Template</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Dear Representative/Senator _________,  
Paragraph 1: Introduce yourself - include your name, school, and that you attend your school’s REACH afterschool program.  
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.  
Paragraph 3: Invite your policymaker to celebrate Lights On Afterschool on October 19, 2022 and support afterschool programs.  
Mahalo,  
Signature | Dear Representative/Senator _________,  
Paragraph 1: Introduce yourself - include your name, which school your kids attend, and that they attend their school’s REACH afterschool program.  
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.  
Paragraph 3: Invite your policymaker to celebrate Lights On Afterschool on October 19, 2022 and support afterschool programs.  
Mahalo,  
Signature |