

# From a Time of Risk to a Time of Opportunity

## This is Afterschool



The hours after the last school bell rings and before parents typically return home from work is a time of endless opportunities and potential for young people. It can be a time of learning and growth, when kids explore new topics in fields like science, technology, engineering, and math; discover new interests; and develop their communication, teamwork, and leadership skills alongside supportive mentors. It can also be a time of risk, as an October 2019 report by Fight Crime: Invest in Kids, a membership organization of more than 5,000 police chiefs, sheriffs, prosecutors, and other law enforcement leaders, found.



**9 in 10 adults agree that afterschool programs are important to their community**

Although juvenile crime has dramatically decreased in the past decade, *From Risk to Opportunity: Afterschool Programs Keep Kids Safe When Juvenile Crime Peaks* determined that nationally, the hours between 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. are the peak time for juvenile crime.<sup>1</sup>

In the U.S., for every 1 young person in an afterschool program that inspires learning, provides enriching activities, and keeps them safe, there are 2 more who are waiting to get in. Public support for afterschool is high, with 9 in 10 adults agreeing that afterschool programs are important to their community, but there are not enough programs today to meet the needs of all children and families. The new Fight Crime: Invest in Kids data is further evidence of the need to do more to help ensure that all youth are able to take advantage of the benefits and supports that afterschool programs provide.

### Juvenile Crime in Hawaii

Analyzing data obtained from law enforcement partners in the state, Fight Crime: Invest in Kids' report, *From Risk to Opportunity: Afterschool Programs Keep Kids Safe When Juvenile Crime Peaks*, determined that 6 a.m. to 10 a.m. is the peak time for juvenile crime in Hawaii during school days, with 35% of crimes occurring during this time period. However, it is important to note that Fight Crime: Invest in Kids found that the peak in Hawaii's juvenile crime during the hours of 6 a.m. to 10 a.m. is due to the fact that the state includes truancy in its accounting of juvenile crime. During the 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. window, close to 1 in 5 juvenile crimes occur (19%).

In Hawaii, 68% of parents agree that afterschool programs help to give parents peace of mind about their children when they are at work and 66% agree that afterschool programs help to keep kids safe and out of trouble. Yet, for every student in an afterschool program, 1 more would participate if a program were available.

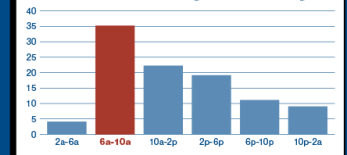
**With 59,057 students in Hawaii waiting to get into an afterschool program, increased investment in afterschool programs is needed.**

### The Prime Time for Juvenile Crime in Hawai'i

#### Quality Afterschool Programs:

- Reduce Crime
- Boost Academics
- Improve Behavior
- Lead to Healthier Habits
- Save Money

#### Juvenile Crime by Time of Day



#AfterschoolFightsCrime

FightCrime

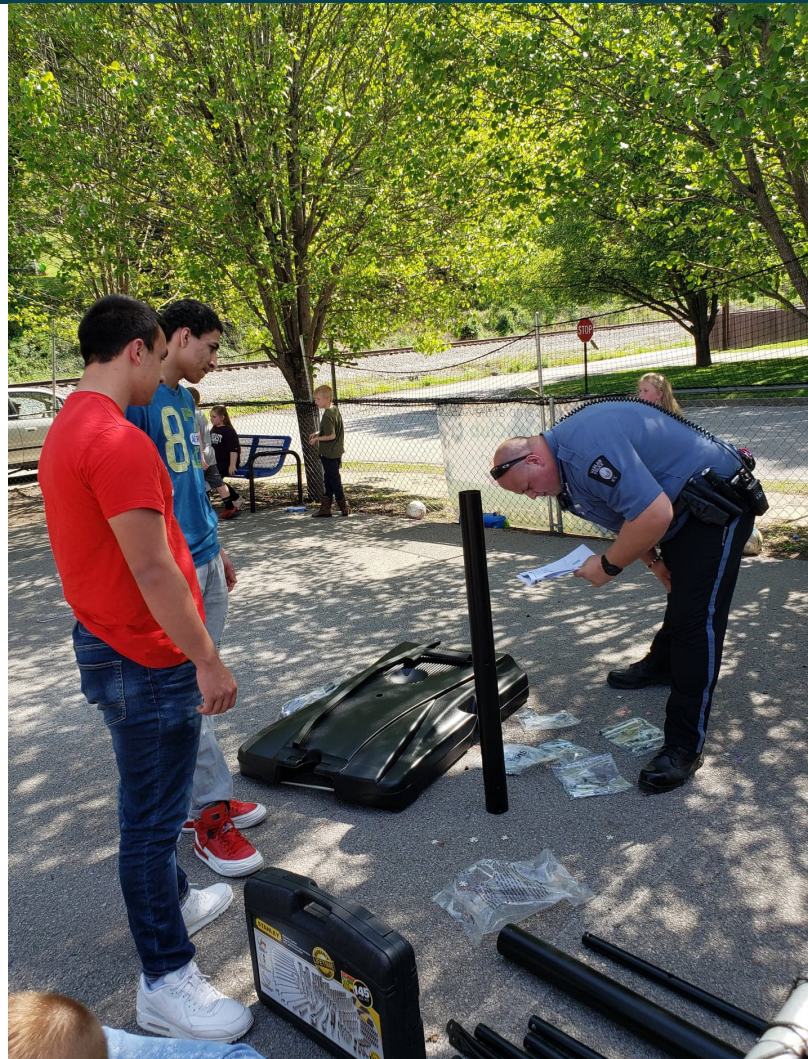
FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS  
COUNCIL FOR A STRONG AMERICA

# Program Spotlight

Adult Friends for Youth (AFY) | Honolulu, HI

Adult Friends for Youth (AFY) first began as the “Hawaii Youth Services Volunteer Project,” a mentorship afterschool program aimed at high-risk youth, specifically youth who had behavioral issues in school or had been involved in the juvenile justice system, through a two-year federal grant to the University of Hawaii. The organization, recognizing the need for a longer-term and holistic intervention to adequately support high-risk youth, reestablished itself as Adult Friends for Youth, with the mission of stopping community violence, strengthening community safety, and supporting local kids and families to help all youth reach their full potential.

AFY’s approach to working with youth includes six program areas: education, providing supports such as tutoring, design thinking workshops, and college preparation and exploration; social activities, with the goal of introducing students to new experiences, like having a meal at a nice restaurant; employment and careers, where students have the opportunity to explore different job pathways; culture and religion, using food, music, and art to examine students’ cultures, appreciate differences, and identify commonalities; recreation and sports; and community service, with activities including neighborhood clean ups and Christmas caroling. Sharing the impact that the program has had on his life, an alumnus of the program said, “Prior to AFY I was getting into fights, and not going to school. Since meeting AFY, I have been doing my work and going to school every day. Now I am [a] sophomore at Farrington High School, getting a 3.0 GPA and participating in extracurricular activities such as rugby, AFY’s Social Entrepreneurship



Program, and Olelo. AFY saved my life.” Current and former principals of high schools served by AFY believe in the value of the program, with one principal stating that with AFY’s intervention, “...campus and community violence has lessened” and another that, “AFY services are invaluable and definitely needed.”

Source

<sup>1</sup> Fight Crime: Invest in Kids. (2019). *From Risk to Opportunity: Afterschool Programs Keep Kids Safe When Juvenile Crime Peaks*. Retrieved from [www.strongnation.org/articles/930-from-risk-to-opportunity-afterschool-programs-keep-kids-safe](http://www.strongnation.org/articles/930-from-risk-to-opportunity-afterschool-programs-keep-kids-safe)



**Afterschool Alliance**

[afterschoolalliance.org](http://afterschoolalliance.org)

The Afterschool Alliance is working to ensure that all children and youth have access to quality afterschool programs. Learn more at: [www.afterschoolalliance.org](http://www.afterschoolalliance.org)