



Join the Hawai'i Afterschool Alliance on October 19, 2022 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 19th** with your programs! Below you will find some ideas and options to celebrate with us!

Mahalo,

Paula Adams
Executive Director
Hawai'i Afterschool Alliance

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💡 **Join us at the State Capitol for our Lights On Afterschool Rally** 💡

On Wednesday, October 19, 2022, the Hawai'i Afterschool Alliance and our afterschool partners will celebrate the importance of afterschool programs at the State Capitol. We invite your afterschool program to join the Rally scheduled for:

Wednesday, October 19, 2022
 Sign Waving 2:45 pm | Program Starts 3:15 pm
 State Capitol Rotunda
 415 S Beretania St, Honolulu, HI 96813

Afterschool youth have the opportunity to join our sign waving on Beretania Street, interact with state legislators, share why afterschool is important to them, and showcase their talents in art, dance, music, and more.

[Register your afterschool program](#) to join our Lights On Afterschool Rally! If transportation is an issue, please let us know, and we will work with you to figure out transportation.



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💡 Register Your Lights On Afterschool Celebrations 💡

If you can't join us at the State Capitol for our Lights On Afterschool Rally, host your own celebrations at your program site!

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.

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💡 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.

You can use this to "[SAVE THE DATE](#)" for Lights on Afterschool Alliance Celebration on Oct 19!



Call for **student stories and testimonies** - use this [flyer](#) for social media or print out this [flyer](#).

Invite parents + families + caregivers - use this [flyer](#) for social media or print out this [flyer](#).

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

💡 Take the #LightbulbChallenge 💡

Take a photo with your youth or have them take their own photos [posing like a lightbulb](#).

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 19th** using #LightsOnAfterschool and #LightsOnHI

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



💡 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 19, 2022 and support afterschool programs by keeping the *Lights On Afterschool*!

Mahalo,

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[Template Letter for Elementary Students](#)

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

Middle/High Student Letter Template	Family Letter Template
Dear Representative/Senator _____,	Dear Representative/Senator _____,

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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

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



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 19, 2022 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 19, 2022 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

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

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