



FURLOUGH FRIDAYS

Services to fill those days off

Enrollment has not spiked in alternative student programs, but several groups expect to see increased interest this week

[By Gary T. Kubota](#)

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
Many groups in Hawaii are offering daylong alternative programs -- from robotics to martial arts -- for public school students losing 17 days of instruction a year due to state budget cuts.

But the groups said while they've received many inquiries, they haven't enrolled a lot of children, even though more than 170,000 students are scheduled to be out of public school on furlough days. The first furlough day is Friday.

"I think a lot of the parents are unsure what they're going to do," said Jim Gagne, chief operating officer for the Boys & Girls Club of Hawaii. "I think ... (this) week will be really busy."

Several groups said they have waiting lists of teachers who want to work on the 17 furlough Fridays to make up for some of their lost wages.

But the groups said they haven't hired many new teachers and won't until they figure out the demand for student programs.

 [City, Kama'aina Kids team up for Furlough Fridays](#)



The City will allow Kama'aina Kids to use Kaneohe District Park for activities for children on furlough Fridays.

[[Watch](#)]



Gagne is doubtful there are enough groups to provide the services.

"I just don't think all of our programs together are enough to make up for the kids who will be looking for something to do," he said.

Gagne said his group's challenge has been to put together a program that's affordable to parents, including those facing reduced work hours such as state workers.

Gagne said his group, serving youths 7 to 17 years old, hopes to design a curriculum to provide for the students' academic needs.

YMCA of Honolulu President Larry Bush said his group as well as others are looking at ways to provide services for the students.

"There are a myriad of organizations looking at filling the need," he said. "The question for us all is how will this grow?"

Yesterday, city officials and child care providers announced that parks in Kaneohe and Manoa would also be available for use by YMCA Honolulu and Kamaaina Kids for child care programs on Furlough Fridays. Depending on interest and demand for the services, additional city parks may be used.

The programs will serve children in kindergarten through sixth grade. Program activities will include recreational and educational components. Care will be provided from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Kama'aina Kids President Ray Sanborn said his group is also working with a couple of companies interested in providing child-care services for their employees during furlough Fridays.

"They're going back and talking to the employees," he said.

Sanborn said if businesses are able to provide enough for 20 children, his group is willing to start a program.

The offerings range in cost from free online credit courses provided by the Myron B. Thompson Academy to the \$755 program in robotics offered by isisHawaii.

Lynn Fujioka, president and founder of isisHawaii, said the program is aligned with public school curriculum and helps to provide students with marketable skills.

Meanwhile, military officials in Hawaii said they have been having discussions and assisting armed forces families who have more than 15,000 children attending public schools in the state.

Pacific Command spokesman Marine Maj. Brad Gordon said programs are being developed at the base and station level for military families.

Gordon said with furlough days scheduled over the next two years, there are bound to be changes and adjustments.

Jeff Piontek, head of school at the Hawaii Technology Academy, said there's been no shortage of teaching applicants for furlough days.

Piontek said he posted an advertisement online this past week. "We got four applicants within the first hour," he said.

WHERE TO SEND YOUR KIDS

The following is a list of some of the programs offered as alternative activities for students who will be out of public schools on furlough days starting this Friday:

Boys & Girls Club of Hawaii

Services: Ages 7 to 17, academic program with teachers.

Contact: 949-4203, jgagne@bgch.com

Cost: \$20-\$25 a day, requires membership.

Location: Waianae, Nanakuli, Ewa Beach, McCully; Kauai: Kapaa, Waimea.

YMCA

Services: All-day programs include homework time and guidance, enrichment projects, recreational and sports-related activities. Sites serve K-6th grade; Camp Erdman, ages 6 to 15.

Contact: 531-9622, info@ymcahonolulu.org

Cost: \$25-\$40 a day

Locations: YMCA facilities at Central, Kaimuki-Waiialae, Kalihi, Leeward, Mililani, Nuanu, Windward and YMCA Camp Erdman on the North Shore.

Kama'aina Kids

Services: K-6th grade, all-day child care. The organization has provided child care for its A+ after-school program.

Contact: 262-4538, info@Kamaainakids.com

Cost: \$25 a day

Locations: Central Oahu -- Hickam, Iiahi, Mililani Tech Park, Mokulele, Salt Lake and Waimalu; Leeward Oahu -- Ewa at Child and Family Services, Iroquois Point, Kaleiopuu; Honolulu -- Hahaione, Hokulani, Kalihi Waena, Koko Head and Laniakea YWCA; Windward Oahu -- Ahuimanu, Enchanted Lake and Kaneohe Preschool; Big Island -- Hilo Union, Keonepoko, Waiakea, Kealakehe, Konawaena, Waikoloa; and Maui -- Kalama Park, Lahaina, and Wailuku.

Moiliili Community Center Children and Families Program

Services: Ages 5-11; children will be exposed to some basic curriculum, including mathematics, reading, spelling, geography, and arts and crafts.

Contact: 955-1555, mccchildcare@Hawaii.rr.com

Cost: \$175 for the seven days this calendar year.

Location: 2535 S. King St.

Hawaii Technology Academy (Public Charter School)

Services: K-5th grade, enrichment program in core courses, including mathematics, science, reading, science, art, dance and digital media.

Contact: 676-5444, McKenna Marich communications@hawaiiitechacademy.org

Cost: \$35 a day

Location: 94-810 Moloalo St., Waipahu

Bishop Museum

Services: K-6th grade, featuring sciences, Hawaiian culture, astronomy, art, and learning through traveling exhibits.

Contact: 848-4168, Hi'ilani Shibata, education@bishopmuseum.org

Cost: \$35 a day for nonmembers

Location: 1525 Bernice St.

Honolulu Academy of Arts

Services: 1st-6th grade, offers painting, drawing, printmaking, museum experience, outdoor art experience, sculpture, clay, paper mache and tile mosaics.

Contact: 532-8741, artschool@honoluluacademy.org

Cost: \$150 for three-day session

Location: Academy Art Center at Linekona

Hawaii Nature Center

Services: Ages 6-11, offers day camp and outdoor, multi-disciplinary educational experiences.

Contact: On Oahu, call 955-0100, ext. 31, or e-mail education@hawaiinaturecenter.org; on Maui, e-mail bookmaui@hawaiinaturecenter.org

Cost: \$35-\$50 a day

Location: 2131 Makiki Heights Drive

Gymboree Play and Music

Services: K-1st grade, offers language arts, mathematics, story, music, show and tell, arts, science, gym time and team games.

Contact: Aiea, 486-7529; Honolulu, 737-8111.

Cost: \$33 a day

Location: Aiea

Science Playground at Children's Discovery Center

Services: Ages 5-8, each program offers a new science lesson. All programs include indoor and outdoor play, plus healthy snacks.

Contact: 524-5437, info@discoverycenterhawaii.org

Cost: \$40 nonmembers

Location: 111 Ohe St.

Chinese Language School, Chinese Lutheran Church of Honolulu

Services: Chinese language (Mandarin) classes.

Contact: 550-8261, 375-0899, jingyanluo@yahoo.com

Cost: \$660/17-day package

Location: 1640 Liliha St.

isisHawaii and Hawaii Children's Discovery Center

Services: Middle and high school, offers creative and innovative skills through the use of advanced technology (3D computer aided design/robotics).

Contact: 524-5437, Liane Usher, or e-mail Lynn Fujioka, lfujioka@isishawaii.org

Cost: \$755/17-day session

Location: 1111 Ohe St.

Honolulu Zoological Society

Services: Ages 6-11, offers day camp, games and activities, animal encounters and conservation.

Contact: Leigh Ann Ford, 971-7195, education@honzoosoc.org

Cost: \$30-\$35 a day

Location: Honolulu Zoo

Oahu Discovery

Services: K-8th, offers educational field trips of Oahu aboard chartered buses.

Contact: 531-5050, David Millwood, info@OahuDiscovery.org

Cost: \$39-\$45 a day

Location: 1272 S. King, Suite 205

Vim N' Vigor/Island Monkeez

Services: K-4th grade, with indoor, air-conditioned playground for play and learning.

Contact: Sherrie or Fudge, 484-4787

Cost: \$40 a day

Location: 98-1247 Kaahumanu St., Pearl City

The Cole Academy

Services: K-6th grade, offers academics and enrichment activities. Morning and afternoon snack provided.

Contact: Downtown, 531-4500; Kaimuki, 732-4200; Kunia campus, 677-4488

Cost: \$40 a day

Location: info@thecoleacademy.com

Epic Foundation

Services: 1st-6th grade, academic day .

Contact: 955-6100, inquiries@epictutor.org

Cost: \$50 a day

Location: Bishop Museum, Atherton Halau.

Myron B. Thompson Academy (Public Charter School)

Services: 9th-12th grade, public charter school, online interdisciplinary credit courses.

Contact: Diana Oshiro, 441-8001

Cost: Free

Location: Honolulu

Applause Performance Academy LLC

Services: K-12, offers performing arts and a scholastic creative writing program.

Contact: Donna Kashimoto, 622-1272, 623-4778

Cost: \$25-\$30 a day

Location: 614 Kilani Ave., Wahiawa

The Studio by Egan Inoue

Services: K-6th grade, fun and learning at a martial arts school. Snacks and drinks included.

Contact: Corrie Rimell, 988-6200

Cost: \$45 a day

Location: 2754 Woodlawn Drive, Suite 7-103A, Manoa Marketplace

Patrick Ching's Naturally Hawaiian Gallery

Services: 3rd-6th grade, offers writing, art and horsemanship.
Contact: Patrick Ching, 259-5354
Cost: \$55 a day
Location: Waimanalo

Imiloa Astronomy Center in Hilo

Services: K-8th grade.
Contact: 808-969-9720, imiloahawaii.org
Cost: \$30 a day nonmembers
Location: 600 Imiloa Place, Hilo

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