



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Finance
February 23, 2007

by
Kathy Jaycox
Interim Executive Director, Hawai'i P-20 Initiative

HB 767, HD 1 -- Relating to the Running Start Program for College Preparation

Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee and Members of the Committee:

My name is Kathy Jaycox, and I am the Interim Executive Director of the Hawai'i P-20 Initiative. In this role, I convene the meetings of the Running Start Task Force -- a joint DOE-UH group which meets at least quarterly to support implementation of the Running Start Program in Hawai'i. I am here to testify in regard to House Bill 767, HD1, which appropriates funds in each year of the fiscal biennium to provide scholarships to students in underrepresented populations in higher education, enabling them to participate in the Running Start program throughout the University of Hawai'i System. This bill also ensures that credit for both high school and college degrees is granted for courses taken while in the program.

I fully support the intent of this bill -- both regarding its provision of scholarship funds and regarding its assurance that credits earned will apply both to high school diplomas and to college degrees. Running Start has been available in Hawai'i for five years now, and hundreds of high school students have had the opportunity to earn college credits while still in high school. You will hear from and about some of them during the course of this hearing, I believe. My only suggestion is that the language of the bill be amended to direct that the funds be channeled through the University of Hawai'i scholarship and assistance special fund rather than through the Department of Education. Students must register for these courses at a University of Hawai'i campus and pay tuition accordingly. The scholarship funds which would eliminate the out-of-

pocket expense for underrepresented students need to go to the University's scholarship and assistance special fund -- not to the Department of Education. If the language were to be amended as I suggest, it is my understanding that the University would continue to administer the Running Start Scholarship process, and that these state monies would be in an identified account within the operational budget of the scholarship and assistance special fund, specified only for use as Running Start scholarships. This recommendation changes nothing about the intent of the bill, but only suggests a method of implementation that is "cleaner" for bookkeeping purposes and eliminates the need for fiscal transactions between the DOE and the University.

I also express the caution that these funds should not replace any funding priorities already established by the Board of Regents within the University's institutional budget.

Thank you for this opportunity to express support for House Bill 767, HD1. Should you have any questions, I shall be happy to address them.