



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Education
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by
Kathy Jaycox
Interim Executive Director, Hawai'i P-20 Initiative

HB 767, HD 2 (HSCR 960) -- Relating to the Running Start Program for College Preparation
Chair Sakamoto, Vice Chair Tokuda 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 support of House Bill 767, HD2, 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, and that the DOE will provide guidance to students to help them understand how the credits apply.

I fully support 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.

At the same time, I 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, HD 2. Should you have any questions, I shall be happy to address them.