



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

TESTIMONY

S.B. 2610 RELATING TO COMMUNITY COLLEGES

Testimony Presented Before the
Committee on Education

February 6, 2004

By

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Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs, University of Hawai'i

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Chair Sakamoto and Members of the Committee:

I would like to present testimony on S.B. 2610 that authorizes the community colleges to establish middle colleges for the education of high school juniors and seniors.

We support the development of alternative ways to help our young people become re-engaged in their high school education by earning their diploma and given an opportunity to pursue postsecondary education. Over the years we have worked together with the State Department of Education to develop and implement a variety of different initiatives to provide high school students with alternative opportunities, including: Tech-Prep, School-to-Work, career academies, Running Start, Career Opportunities Programs, Gear-Up, etc. Many of these initiatives have elements that are similar to the Middle College.

During the past year our Honolulu CC has initiated a number of discussions with the DOE regarding the possibility and feasibility of establishing a Middle College program on its campus. While the model has a number of attractive components, there are also a number of problematic issues that are

still being explored and evaluated. Until that process is completed, it is not possible for the University to support specific legislation, particularly one as detailed as the current bill.

As an example, the current bill calls for DOE teachers to teach the high school portion of the curriculum and community college faculty to teach the postsecondary portion of the curriculum. Since both faculty groups are covered by different collective bargaining agreements, the management of a dual staff could present a significant barrier to the delivery of a successful agreement. If we were to implement a Middle College program, the appropriate staffing is an issue to be dealt with, but having a specific formula in the law would make the process more difficult to manage.

If the intent of the bill is to show legislative support for the Middle College model, perhaps that can best be demonstrated through a Resolution. If, however, the desire is to pass a specific bill to enable this approach there are number of specific items in the proposed legislation that we believe need to be changed if the bill were to be enacted. In addition, if the bill included an appropriation, it should not displace items in the Board of Regent's approved University budget request.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this bill.