



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I SYSTEM

## TESTIMONY

SCR 121  
REQUESTING THE FORMATION OF A WORKING GROUP  
ON ADULT EDUCATION

Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Higher Education and  
Committee on Education & Military Affairs

April 13, 2005

By

Kathy Jaycox  
Interim Executive Director, Hawai'i P-20 Initiative  
University of Hawaii System

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Chairs Hee and Sakamoto, Vice Chairs Inouye and Hooser, and Members of the  
Committees:

Thank you for providing this opportunity for interested parties to submit testimony regarding SCR 121, Requesting the Formation of a Working Group on Adult Education. My name is Kathy Jaycox, and I am speaking today on behalf of both the Hawai`i P-20 Initiative and the University of Hawai`i System.

On behalf of both entities, I wish to express support for this concurrent resolution. As your resolution notes, "growing numbers of adults lack a high school diploma and too few are making the transition into community colleges." This is borne out here in Hawai`i, as noted in a study of the student pipeline which was conducted in 2004 by the National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education. According to that study, of every 100 ninth-grade students in Hawai`i, only 64 graduate from high school within four years; only 34 enter college; only 22 return for a second year of college; and only 12 complete a college degree within 150% of the college enrollment period. Adult Literacy Education is clearly needed for those who drop out of the pipeline.

I am also happy to report that a working group is already in formation to address adult literacy in Hawai`i. Under the leadership of DOE Assistant Superintendent Kathy Kawaguchi, the DOE-UHCC Coordinating Council is evolving in its focus in order to direct attention to this issue. As your resolution notes, this working group will require representation from a variety of parties; Ms. Kawaguchi is attentive to bringing that mix of people together.

The University of Hawai`i and the Hawai`i P-20 Initiative are committed to addressing Adult Literacy Education through participation in this working group. Thank you for allowing me this opportunity to provide testimony.