Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Education
February 7, 2007
by
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SB 682 Relating to College Preparatory Programs

Chair Sakamoto, Vice Chair Tokuda, and Members of the Committee:

In 2010 an 18 yr old high graduate will ask the question:

If you had the capability to offer me quality courses and I had the ability to finish these courses, why did you not offer me the opportunity?
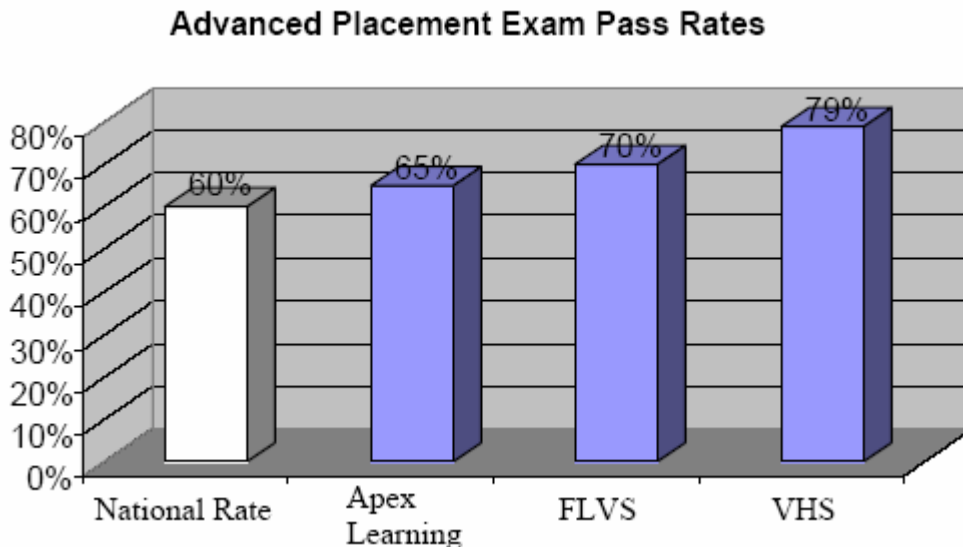
What will be our response?

The University of Hawaiʻi at Mānoa supports the intent of SB 682 appropriating funds for an online college-prep initiative involving the University of Hawaiʻi at Mānoa provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in our Board of Regent approved Biennium Budget request. The University of Hawaiʻi at Mānoa has a history of providing access and establishing partnerships with the public schools. Any new initiative using online technologies would build on these strengths:

- Highly committed/passionate education specialists
- Highly articulated K-12 and post-secondary system
- Technology infrastructure and research excellence

Hawaiʻi has a long history of providing access to learning using advanced technologies. This State has an e-School sponsored by the DOE, several successful online charter schools, and this week one of Hawaiʻi's best private schools launched an online college-prep program. A partnership between the University of Hawaiʻi and the public high schools of this State to create opportunities for our students to access a college prep curriculum would be of great benefit. *An initiative like this one would allow people and organizations to work on common solutions to common problems without sacrificing organizational standing among peers and funding sources.* We need to consider online learning as one part of a larger partnership to improve learning, and use online learning to facilitate student transitions from K-12 to postsecondary education. We also need to focus on the elements of cooperation--access, equity, academic rigor,

research/evaluation, plus the interoperability of the software and hardware used in online learning.

Online learning has a demonstrated track record of educational success. A comparison of AP exam data from three online programs, Apex Learning, Florida Virtual School, and Virtual High School, against the national average of all students taking AP exams, shows the *online programs exceeding national averages for exam results.*

Advanced Placement Exam Pass Rates

In 2005, Learning Point Associates reviewed several previous meta-analyses and provided a synthesis analysis of eight new research studies into the effectiveness of K-12 online learning. The report concluded that *online learning can be effective as classroom-based learning, but that more research is necessary.*

I am the past Chair of the Board of Directors of the North American Council for Online Learning and am pleased to be able to utilize many of these resources in support of the intent of SB 682. For more information on the University of California College Prep Initiative (UCCP), please visit www.uccp.org.

Thank you for your consideration of this legislation.