



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committees on Education and Higher Education
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HB 2603 HD1 – RELATING TO EDUCATION

Chairs Kidani and Kim and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 2603 HD1, which provides grants for high school students enrolled in a career academy program to enroll in college courses through the running start program or other similar programs that allow students to earn college credits that are applicable to the requirements for a career discipline of high need, including teaching.

The College of Education supports this bill for establishing a pilot program that provides grants for high school schools to enroll in college courses, expand opportunities for prospective future teachers as a model that could be replicated, expand the Hawai'i educator loan program, and the continued development of career academies.

The delivery of high-quality professional opportunities, support for potential students in high school, and teacher preparation in high-demand career fields is essential to the economy and to prevent disruption in key sectors. In order to arrive at a high-quality program, the college will work closely with all interested parties to ensure academic quality and work force success.

Again, thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HB 2603 HD1, provided that its passage does not impact the priorities identified by the University of Hawai'i Board of Regents' Approved Budget.