

IN SUPPORT

Name: Janette Snelling
Position: Principal, Kohala High School
Hearing Date: February 10, 2015
Time: 1:15 p.m.
Bill Number: SB374

My testimony is submitted **in support** of SB374 regarding Dual Credit Programs for our high school students. Through SB374, access to dual credit options will be expanded for our students and ultimately this will impact college enrollment after high school. Research is consistent in that students get a jump start by earning college credit in high school are more likely to pursue college after high school and have a higher degree of success in college.

At Kohala High School, our first cohort of juniors and seniors are enrolled in the first 100 level college course offered on campus for our students through the support of the Harold K.L. Castle Foundation and GEAR Up Hawaii. Our current college going rate indicates that less than half of graduating seniors enroll in college after high school. Given that a college education is necessary to be competitive in the job market. For a small rural school that has not previously had early college options, this opportunity is invaluable to our students.

SB374 makes a definitive statement that Hawaii is investing in its youth and future leaders. Dual Credit programs will allow our students to get an early start on college, free of charge, recognize the potential of all of our students, and provide our students with the best chance of success in a competitive, global job market.



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University of Hawai'i

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Aloha,

February 4, 2015

I am submitting testimony **in favor of SB 374** in support of dual credit programs in the state of Hawaii. Dual credit programs have been in effect across the U.S. (Institute of Educational Sciences, 2011). Engaging students in continued education beyond high school is critical for increasing high school completion and advancement to associate and baccalaureate degrees (Radunzel, Noble, & Wheeler, 2014). Evidence from for the past 15 years of dual credit programs across the U.S. demonstrates that students at all levels of academic achievement benefit from dual credit enrollment intellectually and economically because of reduced college cost and earlier graduation from college and technical training (Baily & Karp, 2003). Students who transition to college demonstrate greater direction and commitment to career and life choices, and increase high school completion rates. Making dual credit programs available to all high school students provides an opportunity for vocational and liberal arts skills development so students are ready to pursue career goals and enter the workforce ready to compete in a global marketplace. Please consider voting in favor of SB 374 in support of the success of our students and the prosperity of the state of Hawaii as a center for trade, tourism, and research in the 21st century.

Mahalo!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kurt Rutter".

References

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STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT
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**A Bill for An Act – Dual Credit Programs
For 2015 State of Hawaii Legislative Session
Testimony provided to the Senate Committees on Education
And Higher Education and the Arts
February 10, 2015 at 1:15 p.m.**

SB 374 RELATING TO DUAL CREDIT PROGRAMS

Chair Kidani, Chair Taniguchi and Members of the Committee:

This is written in SUPPORT of SB 374

As the former principal of Roosevelt High School, Smaller Learning Communities Grant Project Director, chair of the Jump Start Early College Program Committee, member of the UH-DOE task force on Early College Options and the current Complex Area Superintendent of the Nanakuli-Waianae Complex Area, I am in strong support of SB 374. I am in concurrence with the testimony provided by Ms. Karen Lee of the Hawaii P-20 Partnerships in Education and have been able to witness the impact of these Early College Dual Credit programs on students and their families.

We are at a very critical time in education where we must build dual credit programs that will support the transition of all students to postsecondary education. There have been a limited number of students who have successfully taken advantage of Running Start, Jump Start and College Courses on the High School campuses at the expense of their parents, GEAR UP grant scholarships, and federal grants to school consortiums or by school funds. Not all schools have been able to provide these opportunities to their students as much is dependent on the affordability either by parents or school allocated state funds.

SB 374 will help with the building of a system of supports between the UH system and the DOE to bridge our respective programs in order to ensure postsecondary success for all of our students. It is important that through this legislation we:

- Broaden the current Running Start legislation to include other forms of dual credit options;
- Increase eligibility of students from 11th and 12th graders down to 9th through 12th graders;
- Allow for multiple measures of assessment to determine eligibility (not limited to COMPASS testing only, but allows for grades, GPA or other assessments);
- Appropriate funds for the instruction, courses and administration of college credits.

I ask for your support on behalf of the Nanakuli-Waianae high school principals, the students and their families as we continue to work towards increasing the number of our students who are prepared and ready to enter postsecondary institutions. We have started partnerships with our UH Leeward Community College and UH West Oahu. We believe that it is due to these types of partnerships and early college program options that our students are able to build confidence in themselves, push ahead towards their dreams and start the course to future success.

If you are in need of any further information, you may contact me at our office: Phone (808) 564-6066 or email me at ann_mahi@notes.k12.hi.us

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ann A. Mahi".

Ann A. Mahi
Complex Area Superintendent
Nanakuli-Waianae Complex Area
State of Hawaii, Department of Education
601 Kamokila Boulevard, Room 588
Kapolei, Hawaii 96707

Submitted by: Sheldon Tawata, High School Outreach Coordinator, Kapi'olani Community College
Measure: Senate Bill 374
Date of Hearing: February 10, 2015 at 1:15pm, Conference Room 224
Committee: Committee on Education and Committee Higher Education and the Arts

I STRONGLY SUPPORT Senate Bill (SB) 374 and House Bill (HB) 95 that calls to support dual enrollment programs for high school students.

My name is Sheldon Tawata, high school outreach coordinator for Kapi'olani Community College (KCC) and I manage the College's Dual Enrollment Programs - Early Admit, Running Start, and Jump Start. At KCC we enroll on average 60 students each semester who come from public, private, charter and home schools.

National research has proven that high school students who successfully complete a dual enrolled program become a greater contributor to the State by completing college and entering the workforce.

I truly believe in dual enrollment opportunities but the current infrastructure mainly benefit those who can afford it, thus creating a divide based on socio-economic status. For the most part, students are responsible for tuition, fees, and books. Financial support through scholarships are available but limited. For instance, a student on the free or reduced lunch program are awarded a Hawaii P20 Gear Up Scholarship for one course for at least one semester. There is no guarantee that they'll receive a second scholarship in the following semesters due to the high demand and limited resources. Some select high schools offer college courses on their campus but the financial support varies depending on the high school. Then there are families that are on the borderline financially creating a different kind of financial challenge making it difficult to invest their child in a dual enrollment program.

Support from the State of Hawai'i will equal the playing field by providing these opportunities to all students in the public school system. Currently, students who are enrolled in 6 or more credits per semester come from families who can afford the tuition. Students taking 6 credits or less generally rely on the Hawai'i P20 Gear Up Scholarships. As you can see, it creates access based on income, which shouldn't be the case.

I've asked my current dual enrolled students how this has made an impact on them educationally and personally. Over 40 of my students provided insight to their journey, below are just a handful with a powerful message.

Student 1:

If I did not become a part of the Jump start program in 2011 I would have dropped out of high school. I felt that completing high school just to go to a community college was a waste of my time. Whether I would have made it to KCC's admission office if I did follow that path is another mystery. The jump start program showed me all the amazing things that college has to offer. It also makes tuition and books obtainable when it could deter me otherwise. Spending my senior year in school helped me to grow so much being surrounded by folks who also has college on their mind. Currently I am a junior at UH Manoa. I plan on going to graduate school and hopefully obtaining my PhD. College made my dreams possible. The Jump Start program made college possible.

I matured a lot through the experience. At Kaimuki I was surrounded by people who did not want to go to college (mainly because they couldn't afford it), therefore success in school wasn't on their mind. My friends wouldn't do their homework or come to school. Being in that environment compared being in a college environment had a huge impact on my maturity and mind set. It made things that I didn't think possible, very possible.

I wouldn't be as successful as I am today without the Jump Start program. The environment, tuition assistance, amazing counsellors, etc, made for an amazing college experience with an easy transition from high school to college. Taking away this program is closing a door for many students who wouldn't be able to go to college otherwise.

Student 2:

This opportunity has impacted my education in numerous ways. I go to an online high school, so all of my class are online, including math. I did not enjoy learning math online, so I jumped at the opportunity to be able to take college level math classes in an actual classroom. Running start and gave me the opportunity to have a teacher explain to me how the different equations work, how new concepts built upon the old ones, and helped me to develop a better understanding of the material. Another impact it is having is the accounting class that I am currently taking. My high school does not offer an accounting class, so if I was not a part of running start, I would have to wait until the next school year, when I am in college, to take this class. Since I would like to be a business professional, I now have some experience prior to going to college, and I am able to get a "feel" of what the business world is like. Lastly, running start has allowed me to earn both college and high school credits. In May, I will be graduating high school with 17 college credits, so when I go to college, I will almost have sophomore status. This is something that I am extremely proud of.

I have gained so much from this opportunity, but the most important thing that it has given me is confidence. As a home school student, I always get asked, "why are you home schooled." Not all the time, but most of the time this implies, "what is wrong with you?" Do you have a learning disability, or are you socially awkward? Although I know that I am neither, being home schooled always made me feel like I was little less than my friends. Having this opportunity has boosted my confidence because it proves to myself and others that I am a smart and independent student. Not only am I able to complete college level work, but I am able to excel as well. I was at the top of my class and finished with A's. This proved to me that although I may not go to Punahou or any other private school, I am just as smart as those who do.

I would like the politicians to hear that the programs help students to earn college credit and experience are vital to create successful future leaders. They should not be put on the "back burner". These students who are taking these courses are going to become the leaders of tomorrow, and we should do all that we can to support them. We may not see the return on the monetary investment tomorrow or even 5 years from now, but one day, we will see it in the people who are community leaders, people who become senators, and people who care for others. By taking these courses, students not only get ahead in college work, but they gain essential skills for life, such as time management, how to work independently, taking initiative, and how to be self motivated. These skills will help kids today become leaders tomorrow, so I urge the politicians to take a closer look at the impact that these programs have on the kids that participate in them.

Student 3:

It had allowed me to take advantages of my interest. High school can sometimes get boring with the limited classes available so these challenges are always great.

I've got to meet countless professors and this had paved way for a research internships.

This is critical for our education. We need bright leaders and by allowing us to take college classes from an early age, it allows is to attain our potential.

Student 4:

This opportunity has impacted my educational journey by opening up a whole new world for me. I was always scared about going to college, but having this course available to me has made me feel more at ease about going to college.

This opportunity has impacted me personally by letting me take a college course, despite of my financial situation. It's enabling me to get some college courses out of the way, without having to pay anything. That's a huge impact on my family and I.

Student 5:

This opportunity to be able to take college classes in high school is a big benefit to me! As a Freshman, having the ability to do this will help me in my future history classes and in college as I gain knowledge from this class. It's an opportunity that will help me in my high school and college classes. This is my first time taking a college class and I can already see that it will help me a lot in the future.

This opportunity to take college classes are helping me not only with my education, but also personally. College is really expensive and I'm glad my high school has this program. Being able to earn college credits for free, is an opportunity I can't decline. Financially, I can't afford to go to college on my own without financial aid or scholarships. But this program at Kaimuki allows me to take college classes and because of that, that's one less financial cost I won't have to worry about when I'm in college. The only difference with taking college class in high school is the environment, it's held at our high school rather than a college. Taking a college class also gives me a better understanding of how much work you'd have to do in actual college. This gives a better ideal picture and prepares us for how it'll be in college. Other students should have the opportunity to take college classes and have the total experience. I feel blessed to be one of the people chosen have the opportunity to take this course!

Student 6:

Kaimuki to college impacted my education by helping me do better in school. I thought that if I could take a college class, I would be able to do well in high school courses as well. I also have more high school credits because I earned them doing the college courses. I learned how to look at things in different perspectives. I gained more knowledge about things that I didn't know before and about things that I have previously learned.

This opportunity boosted my self-confidence. I felt that I had/have more potential than what I used to have. I really enjoy taking these classes and it's really fun to meet new people and get a gist of the college experience. I was really happy to know that I could complete high school courses with this opportunity. This also affects my future and I could save time and money on college.

I think that Kaimuki to College is an amazing opportunity that can influence students to do better in school. It can also boost their confidence in their academics and it can boost their potential. K2C also looks good on transcripts and it can help students to have a better chance in colleges. They also have an opportunity to make new friends and gain college experience. K2C can also be good for their families in their future like they can have a better influence on their kid and do better in life.

Student 7 (this student will complete at least 15 credits worth of course before graduation):

PACS 108 is by far the most difficult class I had ever taken. This class was a nightmare to begin with. This college class showed me that my time management skills and writing skills need improvement. Before PACS 108 I had a bad habit, I would rarely ever study for tests because I knew the content with ease. This bad habit didn't allow me to develop my studying skills. Therefore studying in PACS was time consuming and hard. This showed when I got a B in that class. Kaimuki to College allowed me to realize how important goals are. The transition from high school classes to college classes was difficult, but thanks to the Kaimuki To College Program I have improved on my time management, writing, and studying skills. This opportunity allowed me to discover my weaknesses, and improve them. I am now ready to be successful in college thanks to this program.

My greatest challenge in my life is to graduate from a 4-year college. This would be the greatest challenge for me because none of my parents have graduated from a 4-year college. My mom has an associate's degree and my dad only has a diploma. To be the first in the family would be an accomplishment. Through the Running Start program, I was able to earn 15 college credits. Taking college courses allowed me to realize that I can meet and exceed college standards. This really motivates me and my peers to excel further beyond high school.

Student 8:

Overall, as a student of Kaimuki High, I have seen many of my avid brothers and sisters improve on their core classes such as earning better grades. K2C had a major impact on our avid students because I have seen my classmates that went to KCC and earn or take a college course or credit. Now, they've come back to Kaimuki with college credits already earned ... From my opinion I really believe that K2C will help students to define their careers in life and to accomplish college within 3 years after high school. K2C will absolutely change the school's environment into a better reputation.

Student 9:

This opportunity impacted my educational journey by allowing me to prepare and get ahead by taking college level courses. It has also helped motivate me to strive for my major even more so than before. At first I was thinking about how hard college was going to be and was hesitant. I was being very ignorant about college before I had taken the opportunity to take college courses. Now after that I had taken and experienced college courses I now feel reassured about my educational journey and will be stampeding forth for my degree and graduate with a bachelors for a successful life.

This opportunity had impacted me personally by improving my time management skills, become more independent, and to take opportunities before it's too late. In high school, you didn't really have to manage your time. Mainly due to the fact that high school has a set schedule of when it starts, class times, and when it ends. On the other hand, in college you have the freedom to choose your own time and it's all up to you to manage it correctly. Secondly, it allowed me to become more independent because I'm no longer relying on my teachers for help although I do ask occasionally, they just have too many students and are extremely busy. I found that going to the library was very useful and did my independent studying for my classes in the library everyday. The library was full of resources that I could use and it had become my best friend. Not only did I do independent studying, the library had a study group room in which we can study together as well. Finally, I had been impacted personally by learning to take opportunities as soon as possible. For example when the semester starts for college class availability runs out quick and you gotta take the opportunity by signing on early as soon as possible to get the class that you want. In the end, this opportunity of being able to experience college life had greatly impacted me personally in many ways.

I would like to say that this opportunity that we get will not only strive other students to strive for college but to also strive them to complete college. Getting an early college credit could also reduce their time needed to graduate quite significantly. For those with low income might not be able to afford as many classes, therefore being able to take these college courses ahead of time for free would be like a blessing to them. More people will be able to attend and graduate from college. More graduations with degrees would allow them to get better jobs and a higher income than just graduating with a high school diploma. Therefore, leading to a successful life and career.

Student 10:

I'm experiencing what college is like before becoming a full time student this Fall, and I'm enjoying it a lot. I believe I will be more prepared for college when I enroll for Fall semester because I'll know what to expect. And the reason why is when Fall comes, I will have experienced what college is like ahead of time while I was still in highschool instead of being a student who just graduated from highschool going straight into college and not knowing what to do or expect. Being more prepared especially applies to homeschooled highschool students. I've heard from my piano

teacher who is a professor at UH that a lot of homeschooled highschool students who go straight into college right after graduating find it a "culture shock" because they're overwhelmed with homework, classes, and not knowing what to expect whereas homeschooled highschool students who take a class or two through early admit while they're still in highschool tend to be more prepared for college when they enroll full time because they already know what it's like to get assignments done, work in a group with fellow classmates, and it's less stressful. It's much easier because they already know what it's like.

I'm a very shy, introverted person. It's just the type of personality I have. I used to hate working in groups and I used to only like working alone because I'm an introvert. After enrolling in Japanese 101 as an early admit student however, my views on working only alone changed. I've found that working in groups and working with classmates can be very beneficial because we can all help one another and it makes studying more fun. I still like working by myself in class though, but working in groups is fine too. Either way works for me.

Student 11:

This opportunity allows me to attend college courses as high school student and makes it more "real." By real, I mean that it is different from the talk about the college, students like me actually get to sit in a classroom and learn in a college environment. Because I started college early, I am motivated to continue after high school until I obtain the degree that I am satisfied with. Not only would I get the experience of sitting in a college classroom, I also consume incredible knowledge.

This opportunity is indeed a personal experience for me because my mother provided the tuition for my math class. It was expensive and put a burden on my shoulders. Through hard work and help from others, I was able to achieve my goal and passed the class with an A. For the first time, I felt the joy of an accomplishment and it was precious. From then, I continued to take classes such as Religion and Speech. I finished Religion with an A and in the process of completing Speech. I am thankful for the opportunity and glad to see it making a change in students, for the better.



Testimony presented before the
Senate Committees on Education and Higher Education & the Arts
February 10, 2015 at 1:15 pm
By Bernadette Howard
Hawaii State Director for Career and Technical Education

SB 374 RELATING TO DUAL CREDIT PROGRAMS

Chair Kidani, Chair Taniguchi, and Members of the Committee:

SB 374 expands the current Running Start legislation to include all dual credit programs – including those traditionally referred to as vocational, but now known as Career and Technical Education (CTE). It expands the definition of an eligible student to include all high school students, replaces the standardized test to determine college readiness with assessments for college placement, and appropriates money to these programs.

The State Office for CTE, a part of the UH System, strongly supports this bill. This office administers the \$5.6M Perkins grant awarded to Hawaii annually by the US DOE. The purpose of the Perkins grant is to promote the development of services and activities that integrate rigorous and challenging academic and career and technical instruction, and that link secondary and postsecondary education. Last year, Perkins funds supported 48,014 high school and community college students in Hawaii.

There is ample evidence that students enrolled in CTE programs are more likely to complete high school (HIDOE CTE students graduated at a rate of 98% in the 2014 reporting year) and continue on and complete post secondary education. They are more likely to be employed and stay employed. Attached is a “snapshot” of CTE in Hawaii over the last three years as reported to the US DOE.

Several accelerated learning options for high school students exist in Hawaii. The current Running Start program focuses on *academic* courses that students can complete while in high school. The dual credit Jump Start and Early College models, which support the DOE’s goal of making all students “college and career ready,” were more recently developed and implemented as options for students to earn both academic *and* CTE credits. Early indications are that students enrolled in these programs show better college-going rates and success rates than regular incoming college students. These options are included in SB 374.

Currently there is no legislative funding appropriated for dual credit programs. They are funded by



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Office of the State Director
for Career and Technical Education

private foundation grants, federal grants, and payment of tuition by the families who can afford to pay. As a state, we should ensure that the underrepresented, low-income, and first-generation college students – that all students - have an equal opportunity to these programs.

As a state we will benefit by having a well-educated and highly skilled workforce to maintain our economic competitiveness, higher incomes resulting in higher tax revenues, fewer demands on social services, improved health, and increased civic engagement. We are asking the state to provide the means for the DOE and UH to sustain these programs by supporting the \$1.8M requested for the DOE and the \$800,000 requested for UH.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

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Testimony for Senate Committees on Education and Higher Education and the Arts,
February 10, 2015 at 1:15 pm

By Drake Zintgraff, M.Ed.

Student Services Specialist, Kapiolani Community College

SB 374 RELATING TO DUAL CREDIT PROGRAMS

Chair Kidani, Chair Taniguchi and Members of the Committee:

I am writing this in support of SB 374 relating to dual credit programs. My backing of this proposed bill stems from both my professional and academic experience related to the impacts of dual credit programs.

In my current position at Kapiolani Community College I assist with the coordination and management of the dual credit programs offered by the College. In addition I advise and help prepare students for their transition after high school into post-secondary education. My academic background in this subject stems from my time at the University of Hawaii at Manoa in the Educational Administration program where I focused my research on dual credit programs in Hawaii and across the country.

In my own personal experience I can testify to the statement that education can be a gateway to a plethora of opportunities. However, with research from The Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce that predicts that by 2020 70% of jobs in Hawaii will require some form of college education, and with the latest U.S. Census data showing that only 44.3% of hawaii adults hold a two-or-four-year college degree, new efforts must be made to increase the percentage of working age residents with a college credential.

The research on dual credit programs shows that they could be a method to address this need for more educated citizens. Students who earn 6-12 college credits upon graduation from high school are more likely to attend, persist, and graduate from college than their peers. With that said, dual credit programs do not just give students college credits, they better help prepare

students for their transition to a full-time college workload, build their social capital, and gain a better understanding of what college has to offer so that they may maximize their time.

One of the main causes why students don't succeed upon entering college is that they place into developmental courses (math or English courses below the college level) at high rates. Some UH Community College campuses having students placing into developmental coursework at rates as high as 70% in some subjects. These courses consume additional resources, cost students and institutions time and money, have low completion rates, and as research indicates, impacts students self confidence level, and further deters students from continuing their education and leaving college.

Dual credit programs can help address this issue of academic preparedness by offering an opportunity for college faculty and outreach members to meet with students at an earlier age and draw more real-world connections to college and their aspirations, in addition to the research from a white paper published by Hawaii P-20 that shows students who have taken dual credit courses are more prepared than their peers upon entering college after high school.

With that all said, the area that I feel dual credit programs have the potential to make the biggest impact on the state of Hawaii, is financially. Making college a more manageable financial decision for students can help address the research that shows students from low-income backgrounds have higher levels of negative perceptions of student loans and educational financial barriers, and in-turn, less likely to attend college. Helping students get a head start academically and financially can help increase college access for low-income students, but also for students of many backgrounds.

The cost of living in Hawaii affects everyone, but can be especially difficult for recent college graduates as they search for well-paying jobs, housing options, and other common life milestones. Research indicates individuals with high debt in their 20's have been shown to have more negative perceptions about the obtainability of things like home ownership, retirement, and marriage. Many highly skilled graduates choose to either move to the mainland or don't come back from the mainland after college because of these perceptions coupled with our high cost of

living. Dual credit courses can help students save on educational costs so that they can in-turn be more likely to be active participants in our states hopefully growing economy. Furthermore, dual credit programs also help gives prospective college students the belief that they can both succeed and afford to go to college.

I support SB 374, because I believe that supporting innovative ideas like what this bill contains, is supporting the potential infrastructure that could produce a boom in college graduates, our State's economy, and the ability to enhance the quality of our public education to in-turn benefit the good of all of Hawaii.

Thank you for your time and opportunity to testify,

Drake Zintgraff

Background Research

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Legislative Testimony

Testimony presented before the
Senate Committees on Education and Higher Education and the Arts
February 10, 2015 at 1:15 pm
By Karen C. Lee, Ed.D.
Associate Vice President and
Executive Director, Hawai'i P-20 Partnerships for Education

SB 374 – RELATING TO DUAL CREDIT PROGRAMS

Chairs Kidani and Taniguchi, Vice Chairs Harimoto and Inouye, and Members of the Committees:

SB 374 expands the current running start legislation to include all dual credit programs, broadens the definition of an eligible student to include all high school students, and replaces the standardized test to determine college readiness with assessments for college placement. It also appropriates moneys to these programs.

The University strongly supports this bill. Hawai'i has had a history of promoting dual credit opportunities, mainly through the Running Start program, which allows high school students to take college level courses for college and high school credit at a UH campus, for over 10 years. The outcomes of these students show that they have higher college-going rates, higher likelihood to enroll in college, higher likelihood to remain in college, and higher likelihood to graduate with a degree or certificate. The University, in partnership with the Hawai'i Department of Education, is expanding the dual credit program to include the early college high school program, which allows high school students to take college level courses at their high school campus and which targets students who would not traditionally go to college. Early indications from Hawai'i high schools show better college-going rates and success rates of these students than regular incoming college students. Some of these students, particularly at high schools such as Waipahu, Waiakea, and Kaimuki, are on track to graduate with a college associate's degree upon high school graduation. Nationally, a recent report from the American Institutes for Research shows early college students have higher rates of high school graduation, college enrollment and college completion.

Currently, high schools are able to run these dual credit programs in partnership with UH campuses through private foundation grants, federal grant dollars, and payment of tuition by families who can afford to pay. However, because the early college high school program is expanding rapidly and because it targets underrepresented, low-income, first-generation college students, the ability to sustain this popular program is in jeopardy. We ask that the state fund these programs to both the Hawai'i Department of Education and the University of Hawai'i.

In the 2014-15 school year, Hawai'i has over 1,400 students enrolled in dual credit courses. The \$1.84 million request to the Hawai'i DOE would fund 30 students at every

DOE high school to earn 6 college credits in one year, because research shows that earning at least 6 credits aids college-going and success. It would also fund 2 full time positions – one to act as the fiscal and operations administrator of the funds and distribute the funds equitably to schools; the other to provide programmatic and technical support to the schools and colleges in setting up the programs, determining courses, and acting as liaison between K-12 and higher education. These two positions do not exist currently; the functions are performed by temporary personnel at Hawai'i P-20 Partnerships for Education which is funded by private and federal grants.

The \$800,000 request to UH would award scholarships to approximately 1200 students to take Running Start courses (those taken at the college campus) and to be in the Jump Start program (program for 12th graders to spend their senior year at the college, taking a full year of a career and technical education program). Some of these students take more than 1 course each year. The funding request would also fund one position to coordinate the scholarship application process, distribute funds to students equitably, and coordinate the early college taskforce. The position currently exists as a temporary position at Hawai'i P-20 Partnerships for Education, funded by private and federal funds.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

I wish to submit testimony in support of SB 374 and HB 95 regarding Early College

As a partner in promoting college success for more than five years here in Hawaii at both Leeward Community College in my immediate past and now with Hawaii Community College, I wish to express my strong support for legislative funding for Early College initiatives in our state. I have first-hand experience as a former principal and superintendent in New York State with dual enrollment efforts and have seen only positive results from offering college-ready students the opportunity to earn college credits while in high school. Having attended the Early College National Conference in North Carolina last year to help present the excellent results of Leeward Community College's recent grant-funded partnership with Waipahu High School, I can attest to the fact that Early College works best in those states where there is strong legislative and gubernatorial support, including the allocation of funds to support students taking college classes at a significant scale.

National data clearly demonstrate that those students who earn college credits while in high school are significantly more likely to graduate from both high school and from college. States like Texas, North Carolina, Tennessee, Ohio and Georgia have programs of significant scale that promote the active participation of as many students as can show their ability to benefit, such that students can earn both their high school diploma and an Associate degree concurrently. One of my former students, now a teacher in New York himself, recently told me proudly about his daughter's experience in doing exactly that – earning her high school diploma and her AA last June from Tompkins-Cortland Community College through the dual enrollment Early College program there, a partnership I helped initiate more than twenty-five years ago.

A parent of a current Running Start student myself, I strongly support the notion that Hawaii's high schoolers deserve the same chance to advance their college aspiration as high school students have in many other mainland states. Data show of the 47 states (plus the District of Columbia) that have statewide policies in place governing dual credit programs, only 9 require parents to pay for the students participation. Hawaii is sadly one of those nine under the current Running Start legislation. This is the time to change that.

I strongly encourage our legislature to appropriately accept the challenge of working with the University and the DOE to promote college success for all of our young adults and enable achievement of the 55 by 25 goal, by harnessing the momentum already established by Waipahu High School, P-20 and others and supporting a budget bill offered perhaps uniquely by both UH and DOE as articulated in SB 374 and HB 95.

If there is anything further I can do to promote Hawaii joining the many other states that actively support such Early College initiatives, please have a member of your staff contact me at Hawaii Community College at 808-934-2519 or at cmanaser@hawaii.edu.

Thank you for considering this important legislative proposal.

Sincerely,

Christopher B. Manaseri, Ph.D.
Dean of Liberal Arts and Public Services
Hawaii Community College



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
W.R. Farrington High School
1564 NORTH KING STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96817

Testimony presented before the Senate Committees on Education and Higher Education and
the Arts

February 10, 2015 at 1:15pm

By Regan Honda

College/Career Counselor, W.R. Farrington High School

SB 374 Relating to Dual Credit Programs

I am submitting this testimony in support of SB 374, requesting funding to expand the Running Start/Early College programs in Hawaii. W.R. Farrington High School students have benefitted tremendously from taking part in Running Start and Early College classes. It has allowed high school students to take college level courses for dual credit while still in high school. Students who have taken college courses while in high school not only receive a head start on their college education by earning college credits, they are able to experience the rigor and level of work that is expected at the college level. This, in turn, produces better study and time management skills which will benefit them once they enroll in college upon graduating from high school. Research has shown that early college students have higher rates of high school graduation, college enrollment, and college completion (American Institutes for Research).

Farrington High School is a Title I school. The majority of our students qualify for the federally funded free/reduced lunch program. Most of our students come from low-income households whose parents work multiple jobs for menial pay. Most of our students' parents have not gone to college, much less graduated from one. They would also not be able to afford to pay the tuition and books if their children had to pay for it on their own. The Running Start/Early College program has been such a blessing for our students because it has allowed them to take college classes for free. The funding for these programs however is non-sustainable which is why I am writing this testimony asking for your support to provide the opportunity for low-income high school students to take college courses.

Jake Martin, FHS class of 2014 currently attends Princeton University. He took part in Running Start/Early College classes while in high school. Many other FHS graduates have benefitted

from early college classes and currently find themselves attending institutions of higher learning both locally and across the country. Taking part in Running Start/Early College courses has provided them with the opportunity to gain the confidence and exposure to realize that college is attainable for them – even if financial barriers exist. All of these students are passionate about their schooling and want to work hard in school so they can get ahead in life. I ask that you please fund SB 374 so many more low income, first generation students will have the opportunity to take college classes while in high school.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Regan H. Honda', with a stylized, flowing script.

Regan H. Honda
College/Career Counselor
W.R. Farrington High School

KAILUA HIGH SCHOOL
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LEGISLATIVE TESTIMONY

Testimony submitted to the
Senate Committees on Education and Higher Education & The Arts
February 10, 2015, 1:15 p.m. Capitol Room 224
By Francine W. Honda
Principal, Kailua High School
In Support of

S.B. No. 374 RELATING TO DUAL CREDIT PROGRAMS

Chair Kidani, Chair Taniguchi and Members of the Committee:

SB 374 expands the current Running Start legislation to include all dual credit programs, expands the definition of an eligible student to include all high school students in the ninth, tenth, eleventh or twelfth grade and replaces the standardized test to determine college readiness with assessments for college placement. It also appropriates funds to provide the Department of Education and University of Hawaii with staffing and resources to administer the programs.

I fully support SB374 relating to dual credit programs for high school students in Hawaii for its visionary redesign of the traditional high school structures to include significant and varied opportunities for dual enrollment in University of Hawaii courses.

Dual credit programs provide challenging content and exciting learning experiences for our students, but more importantly these programs nurture the dispositions that are necessary for college readiness, successful transition to college, and graduation. These dispositions include intellectual confidence, motivation and perseverance. Students need to believe that they are intellectually capable and with perseverance they can achieve their college and career goals. Through their participation in dual credit programs, students recognize the value and relevance of their acquired knowledge and learn to apply them in new situations. They experience success in dual credit programs and reaffirm their potential to earn a college degree.

The Fall 2014 semester was especially exciting for the twenty-five students who participated in the UH-WCC Early College High Schools program on the Kailua High School campus. Faculty, administration, parents and students were excited and appreciative of this opportunity. At semester end, all students successfully completed the course. Historically, Kailua High School has had an average of three to four students taking advantage of the Running Start Program. The success of the ECHS program shows that there is both a need and demand for dual credit programs.

Dual credit programs also provide opportunities for potential first-generation college students to experience success with a college course in a supportive environment. Access to dual-credit programs is essential to support college and career readiness and long-term goals to increase the number of adults who hold a two- or four-year post-secondary degree. SB374 provides the access to dual credit programs for all eligible high school students.

Your support of SB374 is appreciated by the Kailua High School community.

Sincerely,



Francine W. Honda
Principal



Dawn S. Fraser
Career and College Counselor

February 9, 2015

Testimony presented to the Senate Committees on Education and
Higher Education & the Arts
February 10, 2015 at 1:15pm

By

Farrah-Marie Gomes, Director, North Hawai'i Education and Research Center

SB374 – RELATING TO DUAL CREDIT PROGRAMS

Dear Chair Kidani, Chair Taniguchi and Committee Members,

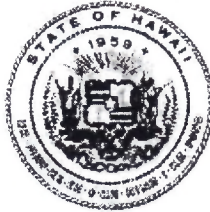
Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 374 relating to education and dual credit programs. I submit this testimony as the Director of the University of Hawai'i at Hilo's North Hawai'i Education and Research Center (NHERC) and not as a representative of the University of Hawai'i system.

Founded in 2006, the NHERC is located in Honoka'a, 40 miles north of the main UH Hilo campus and serves the rural communities of Hamakua and North Hawai'i on Hawai'i Island. The Center offers UH Hilo college courses. The first course was offered in 2008. Since then, NHERC has enrolled a total of 517 students. Of those students, 221 (42.7%) have been high school students. More than 95% of the high school students who attend classes at NHERC receive a Gear-Up voucher or a foundation scholarship. There are many more students who would like to attend and who meet the eligibility requirements to attend, but cannot afford the tuition.

NHERC works closely with Honoka'a High School and Kanu o ka 'Aina public charter school in Waimea to administer the Running Start programs on their campuses. Most recently, NHERC partnered with Kohala High School as participants in the Early College High School program. The classes that NHERC offers are often the types of classes that high schools used to offer, but started to eliminate when resources were cut. Through the dual credit programs, students have been able to take advantage of the classes offered by NHERC to fulfill their high school requirements with classes that their campus is no longer able to offer. In this way, the University and Department of Education systems are working nicely to complement each other.

In addition to the college classes that students participate in, they are also eligible to receive support on other matters related to their college experience, such as information on the processes for admissions, financial aid, and advising. Access to faculty members in the classroom and academic support specialists outside of the classroom enriches the college experience for high school students and provides them with support that is often not available to them through the high schools or their home environments. This is critical to long-term success for high school students since many of those who enroll at NHERC are first-generation college students.

For many students, especially those in rural communities like those in our service area, the dual credit opportunity provides a real sense of hope for their future. Anecdotally, many students credit their pursuit of higher education to their participation in a dual credit program. For all of the reasons stated above, I strongly encourage the Committees to support this bill. Again, thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony.



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
WAIPAHU HIGH SCHOOL
94-1211 FARRINGTON HIGHWAY
WAIPAHU, HI 96797

Testimony presented before the
Senate Education and Senate Higher Education & the Arts
February 10, 2015 at 1:15 pm
By Mark Silliman
Director, Waipahu High School Early College

SB 374 RELATING TO DUAL CREDIT PROGRAMS

POSITION: Support

Dear Honorable Committee Chair Senator Kidani and Senator Taniguchi and Members of the Committee

In 2002, start-up funding for the Early College High School Initiative came from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the Carnegie Corporation of New York, the Ford Foundation, the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, and a number of other major contributors. These start-up resources gave rise to one of the most important educational reform movements in recent history. Notwithstanding these generous grants, many of the 280 redesigned early college high schools throughout the nation have moved away from "soft" money and have now secured permanent and sustainable funding through their respective state legislatures.

On June 4, 2012, Waipahu High School launched the first early college high school program in the State of Hawaii with generous support from the McNerny Foundation. The program began by offering 30 students the opportunity to take a University of Hawaii, West Oahu course in Psychology at no cost to the students. As word spread amongst eager students, enrollments grew to 103 duplicate students in SY2012-13 to 424 duplicate students in SY2013-14, with a 99.8% pass rate.

The net result of this program has been far greater than the award of college credit to underrepresented, low-income, ELL and first-generation college students. The early college program has significantly improved career and college readiness. For instance, preliminary data show that students who graduate from Waipahu High School, and who transfer to Leeward Community College with early college credits, outperform Waipahu High School graduates without early college experience. The following are a few examples of these preliminary data:

- Retention Rate 90.2 versus 65% (25 percentage point better with respect to retention)
- Average Success Rate in Math 100 & English 90.5 versus 70.4 % (20.1 percentage point difference)
- Average GPA was 2.92 versus 2.05 (.87 on 4 point scale (42% higher) GPA

It is no coincidence that the early college movement is championed by Jobs for the Future – a non-profit organization that works to ensure that all underprepared young people and workers have the skills and credentials needed to succeed in the job market.

Beyond helping the University of Hawaii System and the Hawaii Department of Education reach their strategic goals of improving graduation rates of underrepresented students, the early college high school initiative has also been a major contributing strategy toward helping the State of Hawaii reach its 55 by 25 goal.

Jobs for the Future asserts, "Our best chance of preparing millions more Americans for the jobs of the future is by enabling higher education's most underrepresented populations (i.e., dropouts, minorities, low-income students) to succeed in college and other career training programs).

In improving readiness for college and careers, early college schools have become an essential part of Texas' strategy to develop a young workforce that can compete in a global, knowledge-based economy. The benefits to taxpayers of having more students progress successfully toward college completion makes the state's support for starting up these sustainable schools a prudent move" (JFF).

Skeptics might ask: "Is there a return on investment?" In 2006, Augenblick, Palaich and Associates developed a financial analysis model for calculating the return of investment (ROI) and found that states like California and New York might expect to yield \$1.33 to \$2.11 more for every dollar invested in early college high schools than in traditional high schools over the course of 15 years, and \$2.51 to \$3.95 more over the course of 25 years.

In summary, support of this bill will not only significantly improve the gross individual earnings, but would also significantly increase tax revenue for the federal and state governments.

- Hawaii could save as much as \$92.7 million in health care costs over the lifetimes of each class of dropouts (Alliance for Excellent Education, "Healthier and Wealthier," 2006).
- Hawaii's high schools graduated all of their students, the state could save as much as \$13.7 million a year (Alliance for Excellent Education, "Paying Double," 2006).
- Hawaii's economy could see a combination of crime-related savings and additional revenue of about \$18 million each year if the male high school graduation rate increased by just 5 percent (Alliance for Excellent Education, "Saving Futures, Saving Dollars," 2006).

The above analysis does not factor in other costs related to substance abuse, domestic violence, health-related medical expenses and incarceration – all of which have been shown statistically to relate to educational opportunity.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Neal Fleeman".

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Cc: dkackley808@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB374 on Feb 10, 2015 13:15PM
Date: Thursday, February 05, 2015 8:12:47 AM

SB374

Submitted on: 2/5/2015

Testimony for EDU/HEA on Feb 10, 2015 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
DEANNA J.K. KACKLEY	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: This testimony is being submitted in favor of SB374. I am staff here at Waiakea High School and my colleagues and I are am actively involved with the youth for early college. I recommend the funding for purposes of administering early college, for all related materials for students, to provide for data collection processes and costs, and to provide for instructor fees and other professional costs. To date, the students have demonstrated work-force readiness, presentation composition, essay writing, public speaking, college applications, scholarship applications, and community building. Primarily all of our students are from traditionally UNDERSERVED populations. Your actions on this opportunity will be followed closely by our students as part of the learning process for Democracy in Action. I trust you will approve funding and incorporate the revised language for this bill.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

Aloha Senators of the Committees of Education and Higher Education and the Arts:

I support SB 374 with some recommended additions.

The bill states: "The purposes of this Act are to: broaden current law to include all dual credit programs; broaden eligibility to participate in the program; allow for multiple measures of assessment to determine eligibility; and appropriate funds for the instruction, courses, and administration of college credits, thus allowing broader participation by various types of students."

I ask that "students" be clearly defined as public, private or homeschool. I am a homeschool mother who has a daughter currently dual-enrolled at Leeward Community College (LCC) and two others that have since graduated but attended both Honolulu Community College (HCC) and LCC.

For most homeschool families, we are one-income households. The financial help would be tremendous. We receive no financial assistance or breaks while educating our children, even though our tax dollars are heavily utilized for education.

Also, there are no uniformed standards for homeschool students in the dual-enrolled programs at the community colleges; they are different at each campus. Also, there are different acceptance standards within an institution between homeschool and public school students. Students should be considered by equal standards and given equal opportunities to excel.

I support HB 95 with the above changes. I believe the monies spent and standards set must include all students equally, public, private and homeschool.

Mahalo for your time and thoughtful consideration,

Lisa Poulos

I am in support of SB 374 which provides dual credit options for high school students. As a partner of Farrington High School, Honolulu Community College has seen an increase in interested students who wish to pursue dual credit options. In order for our students to stay competitive nationwide, it is critical to fund opportunities to allow students to pursue dual credits. I am in full support of HB 95 and hope that full consideration will be given to this bill.

HB 95 Relating to Dual Credit Programs

Chair Takumi, Chair Choy and Members of the Committee:

I am in support of HB 95 as it will provide the funding to give opportunities to high school students as they look to expand their academic knowledge and skills through participation in dual credit programs in partnership with University of Hawaii campuses. Currently, our students are faced with many barriers when looking to take courses at the local college as they have transportation issues, financial concerns and many of their parents who are not college graduates who do not understand the value of an early start for college.

Dual credit programs like Early College and Running Start provide students with both high school and college credit. Data and research show that students who begin college while still in high school are more likely to attend college and more importantly to complete college. It is with this basis that we as high school educators see the value of dual credit programs. HB 95 will provide the funding to provide students with the access they require to begin their college career.

Being a counselor at Hilo High School, I have seen the need for programs which will assist our students to prepare for their future through post high school experiences. Many of our students are on Federal Free and Reduced Lunch and therefore unable to pay the high cost of tuition and unable to get to and from the college campus. I am confident that with your support we will help our students find success.

We are offering our first Early College course and our students who represent our minority students with high needs are showing much success. As they begin their college transition with a course on our high school campus, they are comfortable in the setting, interested in the subject, enjoy the college instructor and most importantly, they are challenged academically. I know that they will do well as they see this as a way to meet their goals for their future.

Currently, we are relying on private grants and federal funds to provide some of our students with access to Running Start and Early College courses but the number is very small and we are unable to meet the needs of all students who want to participate. I would like you to review the educational opportunities for all Hawaii public high school students and support HB 95 to insure that our students have a future and become contributing citizens in our communities and State.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Testimony presented before the Senate Committees on Education and Higher Education and the
Arts

February 10, 2015 at 1:15 pm

By: Adriana Jones

Senior, W.R. Farrington High School

SB 374 Relating to Dual Credit Programs

I began taking college classes through the Running Start Program last year, as a Junior. I have taken Sociology 100, Speech 151, and am currently taking Psychology 100. I have gained so much knowledge and new skills that I know will help me prepare for my post high school plans. As a student from a single parent household, the idea of attending college seemed out of reach; but, the Running Start Program has given me the confidence to pursue my dream of going to a four year college in the mainland. I am truly grateful for the opportunity to have been able to take these classes for free because I would not have been able to afford these classes—opportunities that helped put my foot in the door of my pursuit for higher education. I would not have paid for these classes in order to take them, no matter how much I wanted to, because of the fact that my mother struggles to financially support my sister and I. For me, being in this program is a privilege, and my intention is to do my very best. We don't just learn from text books, but we learn from our professors who treat us like another regular college student because they believe in our potential to succeed. The Running Start Program gives many students at Farrington hope for the future. We enjoy these classes and many of us have taken advantage of the opportunity to earn dual credits. Numbers in our classes have increased because of the fee waiver; and, this means that many more of us will later go on to pursue careers that require a college degree.

Being able to take early college classes has allowed me to already break the stereotype that students from our neighborhood are not able to succeed in college. As I had mentioned before, the Running Start Program has allowed me to put my foot in the door, allowing me to show colleges how determined and motivated I am in reaching my goals. I want to become a geriatric pharmacist or gerontologist and because I have taken early college classes I feel one step closer to my goal. I owe a lot to the professors that I've had and the professor I currently have because they helped me build confidence in my abilities.

I am not the only student who appreciates the Running Start Program and I know there will be others who would love to have the same opportunity as myself.

Adriana Jones

Adriana Jones

Testimony presented before the Senate Committees on Education and Higher Education and the Arts.

February 10, 2015 at 1:15pm

By: Arian Christopher Escobar

Senior, W.R. Farrington High School

SB 374 Relating to Dual Credit Programs

Having taken Sociology, and is currently enrolled in Speech, I can say that taking Running Start classes during my high school year has helped to give me an idea of how it feels like to be in college. Although I have to stay an extra hour for two days every week, I wouldn't regret giving up my time because the classes are very enjoyable. The professors are very approachable and understanding, and as a student it makes it easy for us to be engaged in the class despite having to miss a few days due to circumstances.

In addition, I can honestly say that one of the biggest factors that basically decided for me as to whether I should consider the opportunity is the fact that it's FREE. My senior year, I didn't qualify for a free meal, so when I heard that the program is free for all students, I didn't have the reason to think twice in deciding to take it. Also, I came to a realization that college in general is expensive, and you basically have to pay for everything including books! Therefore, I took the advantage.

Furthermore, the program allows us to attain college credits while in high school, and that alone is very beneficial for all of us because it will help to reduce the classes needed to take during our college years. Basically, It will lessen the financial trouble in terms of not having to pay and take the class while in college.

All in all, I have benefited from the program, along with everyone else, and I want the future students to experience the same opportunity that was given to us, especially to the many other aspiring students out there who wants to achieve more, by all means receiving the best education they could possibly get.

Adrian Christopher Escobar

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Adrian Christopher Escobar". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'A' and 'E'.

Testimony presented before the Senate Committees on Education and Higher Education
and the Arts

February 10, 2015 at 1:15 pm

By: Britney Mina

Senior, W.R. Farrington High School

SB 374 Relating to Dual Credit Programs

Taking a college class in my senior year was never something I had imagined when I was a freshman. I never really thought about the benefits of having access to early college education until my college counselor exposed me to it. I am currently taking Speech 151, a course that will definitely benefit me in both my academics and social activities. Taking an early college course has helped me experience and get used to what real college is like. It's an opportunity for smooth and easy transitioning from high school to college—college rigor in a high school environment. Although I have only taken one early college course in my high school career, I believe that it gives an advantage to many to get a head start on credits. Accumulating multiple college credits during high school could possibly mean less money spent on credits in college. If I had to pay for these services, I would not be able to take these classes. Prior to taking Speech 151 on school campus, I was considering taking Running Start courses at Hawaii Community College, but realized that I could not afford it.

My goals and aspirations include becoming a pediatrician, much of which require good communication skills. Taking Speech 151 will help me in becoming an effective communicator vocally. Early college courses would also minimize my time spent in acquiring my prerequisite credits in college. I highly commend the Running Start program and early college courses. It allows students to advance in their future endeavors.

Britney Mina

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Britney Mina". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the printed name.

Testimony presented before the Senate Committees on Education and High
Education and the Arts

February 10, 2015 at 1:15pm

By: Kelsi Nicole Baltazar

Senior, W.R. Farrington High School

SB Relating to Dual Credit Program

I had only known of the dual credit program for about two years. My senior year was the year that I finally decided to give it a try. Currently, I am taking Speech151, a college class every Tuesday and Thursday afterschool on our campus.

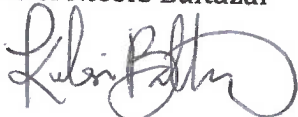
Having dual credit programs are beneficial because not only does it give high school credit, but it also counts as college credit. Dual credit programs allows high school students to get a head start at college, and start earning credits to graduate in four years or even sooner.

Dual credit programs also expose high school students to how college would be like. Taking Speech151, I have been able to see how rigorous and self-taught college classes are. We must take the initiative to read the chapters ahead of time, go over the powerpoints, and ask questions to the professor if needed. Although rigorous, I enjoy the college curriculum and how engaging our professor's class is. His style of teaching is something I've never seen through all of my 3 1/2 years of high school. The professor teaches us not as high school students, but as mature college adults, and that's something we're not quite exposed to in high school classes. This will help us better assimilate when we actually do enter college as a freshman.

If this program weren't free, I probably wouldn't have taken it because I wouldn't be able to afford it. This program was beneficial to me because it was completely free. I am grateful for this opportunity because the funds for the college class and textbook was provided by our school - knowing that someone else paid for my education motivated me to work hard and take advantage of this opportunity, because free college classes don't come around often.

I'm speaking of behalf of a student taking dual classes and testifying for this bill because I hope future generations are also able to have the opportunity to further their pursuit in education to earn a college degree.

Kelsi Nicole Baltazar



Testimony presented before the Senate Committees on Education and Higher Education and the Arts

February 10, 2015 at 1:15pm

By: Ma. Jhessica Bautista

12th Grade, W.R. Farrington High School

SB 374 Relating to Dual Credit Programs

I am extremely grateful to be a part of the Farrington High School Running Start Program for both the Fall 2014 Sociology 100 and Spring 2015 Speech 151. Being a part of this dual credit program has relieved me from paying over a thousand dollars of the cost for both classes. At the same time, I appreciate the people who put their effort into providing free post-secondary education to students like me who have some trouble paying off tuition for early college courses.

I found taking Running Start at Farrington High School very helpful because for example, taking Sociology 100 helped me fill up a course in high school and gave me the last credit of history that I needed to graduate. Also, since I am taking Speech 151 right now, I really hope to grow as a person while taking this class since I'm not the most sociable amongst other people. Therefore, taking both these classes had benefitted me in some way. I certainly have no regrets in taking these classes because they'll be something I won't have to feel troubled over when I become a full-time college student. Therefore, I hope that this program's grant will continue for the next generation of students who are serious about pursuing college courses while they are still in high school.

Ma. Jhessica D. Bautista, FHS Senior

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Ma. Jhessica D. Bautista", written in black ink on a white background.

Testimony presented before the Senate Committees on Education and Higher Education
and the Arts

February 10, 2015 at 1:15 pm

By: Maricris Juntura

Senior, W.R. Farrington High School

SB 374 Relating to Dual Credit Programs

As a current student of Farrington, I have been involved in the Running Start Program ever since the 2nd semester of my junior year. The fact that a free college class is being offered to those who have free/reduced lunch was enough to encourage students to take advantage of this great opportunity. Early college classes will benefit me in the future because I was able to save money on the three classes that I took while in Running Start. Also, I automatically have college credits when entering my freshmen year in college. Due to the free classes offered, I was able to sign up for Running Start; however, I believe that if it weren't free, I wouldn't have sign up. \$400 for a class is pretty expensive and seeing that this amount could double in a university scared me. Running Start was a great way for me to become more exposed to how a college class would be run and lessen the course load I have to take in college.

The three courses that I took are Sociology, Psychology, and Speech. I took this class because I was more engrossed in how people interacted with one another and how I can change my public speaking before entering college. The two majors that I'm planning on pursuing are Early Childhood Education and International Relations. These majors are my main interest as of now. After being in the Teacher Academy for two years, I realized that I enjoyed spending time with the children at the schools and I love learning different languages. I hope that one day I'll be an Educator who travels the world in order to provide schooling for those unable to afford and have the access to it. My education philosophy is Knowledge is Power and I wish that no one is being held back from obtaining the knowledge that they're craving for.

Hence, taking early college classes helped me to understand more about the majors that interest me because without taking the three classes that I have mentioned, I think I would've not have come to the conclusion to double major in Education and International Relations. Being able to start ahead and experience college made me more serious about my education and how I perceived things, especially when it came to opportunities like this. By carrying this wonderful program throughout Hawai'i, the students are able to obtain more understanding of their goals in life and become more aware of the cost of college. Early college classes became an eye-opener for many students and I wish that the future generations were able to experience what I have experienced in high school—an opportunity to experience free college courses that transfers to universities.

Maricris Juntura



Testimony presented before the Senate Committees on Education and Higher Education and Arts

February 10, 2015 at 1:15pm

By: Marvie Mae Rellanos

Senior, W.R. Farrington High School

SB 374 to Dual Credit Programs

I am currently taking early college classes; it has benefited me in a whole new level. It helps us be prepared in college. It allows me to take classes in college level while earning both college and high school credit. If I had to pay in order to take these classes I wouldn't take it because I couldn't afford it. My goal in life is to become an accountant. In order to do that, I have to attend a four year college and get my bachelor's degree. With the price for college tuition, I'm afraid that my dream would be impossible. Taking free early college classes will help me earn college credit for free and therefore, I would pay less in college and probably graduate early.

Marvie Mae Rellanos

Marvie Mae Rellanos

Testimony presented before the Senate Committees on Education and Higher Education and
the Arts

February 10, 2015 at 1:15pm

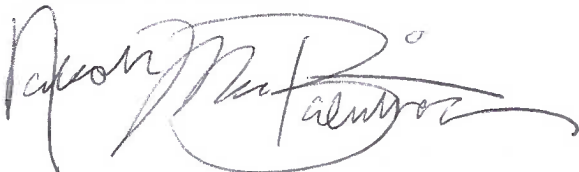
By: Natasha Mae Balintec

Junior, W.R. Farrington High School

SB 374 Relating to Dual Credit Programs

Education is very important and preparing for college will benefit many students who are striving to attend college. Taking college classes helps to challenge me with my work. It's beneficial to become a better person through presenting, speaking, and writing. If I had to pay, I wouldn't be able to take the classes. The reason is that I have to pay for full lunch. I am not free or reduced. I would take classes if I would be able to make money. But I don't want to depend too much on my parents for money. Also, I would have to pay for college in the future. My goal is to attend college in the mainland and being able to be independent and confident with my plans. Taking early college classes can help to reach my goals because we learn a lot towards society and speaking. I am taking Speech 151 right now and I am enjoying the class very much. We do many activities to learn the lessons of a chapter. Having early college classes will be very beneficial and help to give me an experience on how college classes will be like.

Natasha Mae Balintec

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Testimony presented before the Senate Committees on Education and Higher Education
and the Arts.

February 10, 2015 @ 1:15 pm.

By: Renzy Meir Baloran

Senior, W.R. Farrington High School

SB 374 Relating to Dual Credit Programs

Dual credit gives high school students the ability to take college courses during high school. The course work is harder, the work is more in depth and that is why I personally favor these classes. With dual credit courses, high school students will be able to get the general idea and feeling of college level courses. This will push the students to new boundaries. This allows us to think beyond our general thoughts and prompt us to focus and understand. Although, other courses are challenging, taking a college class exposes me to a potential, I would have not known. Those who do take these classes are ahead because of the experience in the class.

However, I would have not been able to afford this class. Without the free opportunity to take these classes it would not have been an option. A dual credit is worthwhile; however too much of a financial obligation for my family. This dual credit program should continue to be offered to students for free because it gives them an opportunity to challenge and expose them to a college education and higher level thinking. But if they're required to pay for these classes it would discourage them to take it because money is a great issue. In my area, there is a high poverty rate and many kids do wish to achieve a better education, but with the financial situation their families aren't capable of it. With free dual credit courses, it promotes highly motivated students to go beyond their abilities. Also these classes continue to promote students to achieve an education beyond high school.



Renzy Meir Baloran

**Testimony presented before the Senate Committees on Education and Higher Education and
the Arts**

February 10, 2015 at 1:15pm

By: Samantha Lei Resurreccion

Senior, W.R. Farrington High School

SB 374 Relating to Dual Credit Programs

Taking early college classes is really beneficial. I know for sure that it has been beneficial for me because I have experienced taking those classes. I am currently taking one of those early college classes and I also took another one last summer. Both classes helped prepare me for college; it gave me an insight of how a regular class at college will be like. It also gives me an opportunity to earn both high school and college credit at the same time. If I had to pay to take these early college classes, I would only take one class and that's it. I wouldn't try to take another because of the money and I wouldn't afford it. So I'm thankful that I'm able to take free early college classes right now and other high school students should be able to take those classes for free as well.

Samantha Lei Resurreccion

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Testimony presented before the Senate Committees on Education and High Education and the Arts

February 10, 2015 at 1:15 pm

By: Alexis Andrada

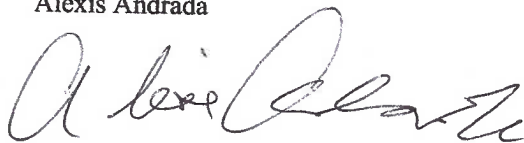
Senior, W.R. Farrington High School

SB 374 Relating to Dual Credit Programs

For the past year, I have been taking Running Start. So far, I have taken a Running Start class of English during the Summer of 2014, and I am currently taking a Psychology 100 course. It has been an honor and quite beneficial to be able to take early college classes. Taking early college classes has benefited me greatly, and in the longrun, I am having a head start because I am able to finish the required courses I need and also receive a high school credit at the same time. That is a total of 2-3 credits, depends on the classes that we take. Also, taking an early college course has given me the opportunity to experience what a real college class is like, and how the system works.

If high school students did not have the chance to take and experience a college class, they wouldn't be as prepared as people who have taken running start classes. While entering college, most students wouldn't know what to expect of their classes, unless learning from other people's point of views of college. Having this program open and available to students is a wonderful advantage and should be encouraged more to better their futures. It is also beneficial due to the fact that you do not have to take it later again while being in college. If I had to pay, I wouldn't because my family is not financially stable. Money is quite difficult for us to earn, and our income is very low. Once again, having the wonderful opportunity to take Running Start is a great way to get a head start for college and very beneficial for free or reduced lunch students, especially when offered at our high school, since college tuitions are very costly.

Alexis Andrada



Testimony presented before the Senate Committees on Education and Higher Education and
the Arts

February 10, 2015 at 1:15pm

By: Carly Bui

Junior, W.R. Farrington High School

SB 374 Relating to Dual Credit Programs

Having the option to take early college classes has benefited me because I have an advantage of going far in life and also it would help me get closer to my future. If I had to pay to take these classes I would definitely go for it because it's better to start early and get it over with then to begin later on. My goal is to get scholarships to get into colleges a lot easier and so that I can pay less than the original tuition price. Taking this college class can help me reach my goal because it is a step closer for me to earn an honors grad for high school which would assist me in having scholarship opportunities. I recommend taking early college classes for those who want to quickly reach to their better future.

Carly Bui

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**Testimony presented before the Senate Committees on Education and Higher Education and
the Arts**

February 10, 2015 at 1:15pm

By: Jas Rick Dela Cruz

Grade 12, W.R. Farrington High School

SB 374 Relating to Dual Credit Programs

Being one step ahead is one of the many goals that many others including myself would like to achieve every day. Taking these running start classes provided free of charge here in W.R. Farrington High School assists me to achieve that goal; in this case, being one step further to college. Early college classes are a big benefit that high school students should take the opportunity on because you get to gain the experience, knowledge, and preparedness. As a senior, I have already took two courses this school year. From my experience with completing my first college course (Sociology 100), I assure that I did gain the three aspects. I definitely have a sense of how college classes feel like and got to learn more on a new subject which wasn't even available on my campus. With those combined, I believe I was preparing myself for college itself.

My aspirations in life is to have a successful career in the Hospitality and Tourism Industry, specifically under the Human Resources Management area. To get to that path I hope to be in, college classes are major components that help me along the way. College and its courses may cost a lot and therefore, these free early college courses will help many be alleviated of finances in college. Especially to those who usually struggle and have unstable finances to provide their own needs. Already, I am currently taking a course (Psychology 100) that may be one of the required classes to take under my major. Money is one of the barriers that block me from entering a specific college, depending on how much a class costs and whatnot. Overall, taking early college classes would be a great benefit in helping others achieve their goals who are experiencing rough times.

Jas Rick Dela Cruz

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Testimony presented before the Senate Committees on Education and Higher Education and the
Arts

February 10, 2015 at 1:15PM

By: Mary Janell Murro

Senior, W. R. Farrington High School

SB 374 Relating to Dual Credit Programs

Hello! My name is Mary Janell Murro, and I am a senior at Farrington High School. I am in full support of the bill "SB 374 Relating to Dual Credit Programs." Raised within a family comprised of Filipino immigrants who possess limited knowledge in secondary education, taking early college classes has benefitted me greatly – personally and financially. I took Speech 151 in the Fall of 2014 and am currently enrolled in Psychology 100. With tuition and books combined, these two classes would've cost about \$1000. With frequent money orders to care for family overseas in the Philippines and trying to make ends meet in America, this opportunity to gain early college exposure wouldn't even be an option.

Not only do college classes serve as a financial relief, they've helped me develop as a person. I have gotten out of the comfort zone and continue to go beyond the boundaries I've set for myself. Through Speech 151, I competed in my first debate – something I normally wouldn't participate in. The sky's the limit, but with opportunities like this offered to me, the sky is just the starting line.

I live in a neighborhood where gang fights and high school dropouts are the norm. Students like me continue to fight against the reputation Kalihi holds, and programs like these fuel our passion for education and a better future. I would like to thank the government for funding programs like these, and hope that the funding will continue to support students well after I graduate.



Mary Janell Murro

**Testimony presented before the Senate Committees on Education and Higher
Education and the Art**

February 10, 2015 at 1:15pm

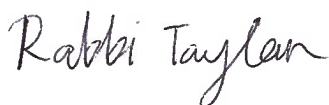
By: Rabbi Taylan

Senior, W.R. Farrington High School

SB 374 Relating to Dual Credit Programs

This is my first early college class and so far it has honestly has been going great. Even though it is only around one hour, there is no time wasted and I have learned a lot so far. Taking a college class during my last semester has motivated me to not slack off for this class and also in my high school classes because I know that tax payer's money is being used so I have to make their money worth it. It will benefit me by giving me a glance of how college classes will be after I go to a college. Before I would take notes word for word, but I have learned to not do that because there is so much to cover in so little time that you need every monent to move on to the next topic. Since I am taking an on campus early college class, I do not have to pay. If I had to pay for early college classes, I would most likely not take a class because my family has many bills to worry about and I wouldn't want to be a hassle since I have other obligations to pay for my senior year. After learning that there was an opportunity for a free early college class, i was determined to get in because it will not only benefit me, but less stress for my parents. Many students from each grade level were eager to get in the class too and I am fortunate to be in it. My goal is to challenge myself and take classes that are above average. Taking early college classes will help me do this because the name explains it all. Early college for me is almost similar to freshmen taking Advanced Placement classes. Not much students would take that risk because they know that it will be an easy A. People who do take it are taking risk for their GPA, but also giving them a head start from the other people who were to scared to try it. I want to be those type of people and by being in Psychology 100 on my campus, it's giving me a a challenge to stay on task and try to become above average.

Rabbi Taylan



Testimony presented before the Senate Committees on Education and Higher Education and the
Arts

February 10, 2015 at 1:15pm

By: Fara Lee

Senior, W.R. Farrington High School

SB 374 Relating to Dual Credit Programs

I started taking early college class in the beginning of my senior year. I decided to take college classes because of the benefits. One benefit was that I could get college credit *and* high school credit at the same time. I took Sociology 100 during the fall of 2014 and it counted as a social studies credit, meaning that I could drop my social studies class that I currently had. However, since I didn't, I have two social studies credit for my senior year. Another benefit of taking an early college class is because it is free. Most of the students that attend Farrington High School are low income students. If we were to take it after we graduate, we would have to pay out of our own pocket or possibly ask our parents to do it and parents do so much for their children already so by taking a college class, it can help ease the responsibility of our parents even if it's only a little bit. Plus, we could take the class on our school campus or go to Honolulu Community College, which is only a walking distance away from our school. If I had to pay, I wouldn't have taken the class because my schedule every day is packed and I would be sacrificing my other extracurricular activities such as Mandarin class, Robotics, Erudites (a college prep class), and PAAC (Pacific Asian affairs Council). By taking early college classes, it lets me have a perspective of what a college class is like and prepare me when I do go to college.

Fara Lee

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Fara Lee', with a stylized, flowing script.

Testimony presented before the Senate Committees on Education and High Education and the
Arts

February 10, 2015 at 1:15 pm

By: Heidy Espejo

Senior, W.R. Farrington High School

SB 374 Relating to Dual Credit Programs

As a senior at Farrington High School, it has been a great opportunity to experience the chance to take early college classes while receiving dual credit for my high school required credits and credits that will be a part of my college transcript. Taking early college courses has benefitted me by completing credits for classes that I would have taken in my freshman year of college. Since college courses are based on a 5.0 grading scale, the classes would help me in high school by raising my GPA and getting credits as well. As of today, I have taken Sociology 100 in Fall 2014 and I'm currently taking Speech 151 for Spring 2015.

If I had to pay for these classes, then I would have never been able to enroll to these classes because of the tuition costs for students with no free or reduced meals. Money has been tight for my family, and it would have been such a difficult time to pay for tuition and bills all at the same time for my parents. This is why I am grateful to take college courses taught by Honolulu Community College professors and receive free textbooks. My goals and aspirations when I graduate from Farrington High School is to attend college at the University of Hawaii at Hilo and pursue my dream of becoming a pharmacist. By taking classes through the University of Hawaii system, I would transfer my credits from Honolulu Community College to the University of Hawaii at Hilo and pursue my degree in Pharmacy. My plan in college is to take trimesters in order to finish my credits sooner because once I get a job, I can start helping my parents pay off my student loans.

Running Start has allowed me to experience how college classes are—it's completely different than our high school curricula. Early college classes would especially be beneficial for upcoming seniors and juniors because they would have more opportunities to be a part of different classes and are able to complete more credits in college.



Heidy Espejo

Testimony presented before the Senate Committees on Education and Higher Education and the
Arts

February 10, 2015 at 1:15pm

By: Irish Sophia Fernando
Senior, W.R. Farrington High School

SB 374 Relating to Dual Credit Programs

Being able to take college classes while in high school has been a privilege knowing that it's free and beneficial for college. I'm able to see how a college class feels and it trains us to know what to expect when I start college. If I had to pay for college classes I don't think I could afford knowing its about \$200+ for a class per semester. If I was fortunate enough, I would take higher level math in running start, as well as english courses. Taking early perquisites can help me get ahead in college and earn my degree faster. My goals in life is to earn a bachelors degree in Mechanical Engineering, and taking early college classes has helped me have the feels of what a rigorous course would be. I'm one step ahead of everyone knowing that this is a college credit class, which can also boost up my grade point average. Overall my experience with running start has been great, I enjoy the lectures of my professor and he inspires me to work hard and study more.


Irish Sophia Fernando

**Testimony presented before the Senate Committees on Education and Higher Education
and the Arts**

February 10, 2015 at 1:15pm

By: Kezeah Bautista

Junior, W.R. Farrington High School

SB 374 Relating to Dual Credit Programs

College is not cheap, I've personally seen many seniors who stress about getting into the right college that appeal to both their aspirations and their family's budget. Not only that, they have to meet their "dream college's" expectations. I am highly grateful for this opportunity to attend college classes because of the funding you have provided for our school. Coming from a family who struggles financially, we are very tight on budget, so if these free college courses on campus were not offered, I could not afford to get ahead in my education. Even just taking one class has benefitted me greatly. I am able to, not only get ahead in highschool, but also gain a new knowledge of interest that I will use in the future. Your generosity has opened doors for me to embark on new challenges, and aspirations. My goal is to complete my education, not just by casually sitting in a class passing with an average grade, but to complete my education with the satisfaction that I have pushed myself to the fullest, and aimed high. These early college courses has me one step ahead of my game, the expectations of teachers, and being surrounded by classmates whose intentions are also educational, is the best environment to encourage and prepare me for my future.

If you continue to fund for more of these college classes at our school, this could raise our academic achievements, more students will have the opportunity to study interesting courses that pertains to their dream jobs, and will generate an academically driven generation that our society will depend on in the future. I request and hope these funds will continue so that more doors can open for students here at Farrington.

Kezeah Bautista

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Testimony presented before the Senate Committees on Education and Higher Education and
the arts

February 10, 2015 at 1:15pm

By: Ludwig John Gonzales

Senior, W.R. Farrington High School

SB 374 Relating to Dual Credit Programs

Taking early college classes has benefited me in a lot of ways. Last semester, I took Sociology through the Running Start program. I learned a lot of useful aspects of life there, such as theories and systems like the Panopticon- a type of prison that was used. But I was shocked that companies like Disneyland uses pretty much the same system: the guards are the workers and the prisoners are the visitors. The difference is that Disney's goal is to make money instead of keeping prisoners in control. Another topic which is stuck in my brain is the Memphis Three. Three teenagers were convicted of murdering in three boys in West Memphis. The crazy thing about that case was that, the police didn't have any evidence that linked the deaths to the teenagers, in fact, the police didn't preserve the evidence in the scene of the crime. One of the alleged reasons why the three teenagers were suspected to be the killers was that they were listening to rock/metal. If not for Running Start, I wouldn't know any theories and stories like these. If I had to pay to the classes, I wouldn't register because money just doesn't grow on trees-a scientifically proven fact. Which is why it was basically a jackpot because I got free college credits. My goals as of now is to bring forth the idea of Running Start to Freshmen, Sophomores and Juniors in Farrington because it'll no doubt help their future if they attend. Taking early college classes has been a boost for me in my opinion. Because of it, I have college credits even before I attend college. And since I'll have credits beforehand, I'll be able to take the classes I'll need for my major or career or choice since I won't need to take the classes I have taken in Running Start.

Ludwig John Gonzales

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Testimony presented before the Senate Committees on Education and Higher Education and the
Arts

February 10, 2015

By: Ruby Ann Sales

Junior, W.R. Farrington High School

SB 374 Relating to Dual Credit Programs

The early college class that I am currently taking is Speech. This class at first, I thought I wasn't going to like it, but over the few weeks since it has started, I have come to love it. This class will benefit me by giving the experience what a college class would be like and what to expect when I do go to college. This class prepares me to become an individual person with the help of every classmate.

If I had to pay for this class, I wouldn't take it because money is a big problem. For example, I'm still in high school, and I made the choice of taking an early college class with its free benefits because I didn't want to bother my parents to pay for, for it would be useless since I have a brother in college too. I like the fact that this early college class is free because this class will help nurture and build up my confidence. I'm learning so much with the given lessons, readings and activities done in class. That one goal is to help me speak up and get out of my comfort zone, and I know that this class can help me with that.

Ruby Ann Sales

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Testimony presented before the Senate Committees on Education and Higher Education and the Arts

February 10, 2015 at 1:15pm

By: Shaianne-paige Tolentino

Junior, W.R. Farrington High School

SB 374 Relating to Dual Credit Programs

Taking early college classes benefits me because it helps me get a head start into what college courses are like when I go to college and it helps me better my public speaking as a mature person, rather than speaking pigeon, or informal. If I had to pay I would still take the class but it would be a hard time for me because I would be paying out of my own pocket, so I would need to get the money by working. If I also had to pay I would not want to be a part student who works because of money, so at the same time I would not and I would because either way there is an advantage to it. Taking early college classes helps me reach my goals because I want to go beyond my limit of education and with this class it help me reach that goal because when I graduate from high school and move on to college I can still go beyond my limit. This also inspires me and I hope it inspires others because even though you come from a low or middle class family you still have the opportunity in your education, take the opportunity and go beyond just a high school Diploma.

Shaianne-paige Tolentino

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Testimony presented before the Senate Committees on Education and Higher Education and the
Arts

February 10, 2015 at 1:15pm

By: Christopher Sales

Junior, W.R. Farrington High School

SB 374 Relating to Dual Credit Programs

During my time in taking Speech it has benefitted me in many ways. It has made me practice how to present and talk to people. Before this class I was unable to present or talk in front a group of people without messing up. This class gave me the courage and strategies in how to make speeches in front of others. The class to me is essential, I would pay for classes if I had to. This class will help me reach my aspirations of becoming a nurse, by giving me pointers on how to interact with others. I could use this knowledge in interact with patients in the medical field. The skill alone is essential in becoming a good health care provider, which is about serving others who need our care.

Christopher Sales

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**Testimony presented before the Senate Committees on Education and Higher
Education and the Arts**

February 10, 2015 at 1:15pm

By: Jiane Bagoyo

Junior, W.R. Farrington High School

SB 374 Relating to Dual Credit Programs

As a high achieving student coming from a school that has limited resources, I am glad to have been given an amazing opportunity of aiming higher through these free college courses through Running Start. I have already taken and gotten credit for one class, Speech 151, and am currently taking the Psych 100 class. This opportunity presented has surely benefitted me by making me strive for higher goals and motivating me to work harder. It gave me a glimpse of the college life and surely does help prepare others and me for what's up ahead.

It's amazing that this program is completely free. I don't think I would have been able to take these classes during high school if it weren't free because I come from a low-income family. Running Start was able to pave me into a pathway that leads me into getting closer to my goals and aspirations. I will forever be grateful to the compassionate souls that started and supported this program. I hope this will continue on for many more years.

Jiane Bagoyo

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Testimony presented before the Senate Committees on Education and Higher Education and the
Arts

February 10, 2015 at 1:15 P.M.

By: Kathleen Mindaro Mones

12th Grade, W.R. Farrington High School

SB 374 Relating to Dual Credit Programs

Adriana Jones was the person who exposed me to Running Start and if it wasn't for her motivation to push me I wouldn't be taking these Running Start classes. When thinking about Running Start I thought I wasn't ready and that I wasn't college bound. However, with the help of Adriana and my fellow peers, I finally took my first Running Start course in my first semester of my senior year. I took Sociology 100. This class hasn't only changed my perspective upon Running Start, but it has also changed my view upon college. In Sociology I learned and felt how it was like to be taught by a professor. From that experience, I now have a glimpse of how it's like to be taught as well as graded from a professor. At first, the grading scale frightened me because the only things that will be counted for my grade is the exams; no homework, no class work, nothing. Because of this, it pushed me to read most of the chapters and readings just so I can pass the exam with a decent grade (a B or higher). In addition, with me adding another class to my schedule it taught me how to manage my time more efficiently. Sociology 100 was eye opening for me; it also gave me a sense of relief when this class help built my confidence upon me making through college. I finally believe in myself that I will make it through. Once that semester finished I desired more. I wanted to enroll into another Running Start class to replace Sociology 100.

I am currently taking Speech 151. I am a naturally born speaker when it comes to presenting among people I know. As for people I'm not too accustomed to, I tend to cringe and lose my trail of thought. Thus, being the reason why I chose to take Speech 151. I felt that this class will help me gain my confidence when speaking in front of people I don't know. I have only been in this course for three weeks and I feel more confident than I was before, I feel as if my communication skills is growing at a fast and constant rate. Furthermore, it has also taught me the basic things, such as advocating me to voice my ideas, taking advantage of the influences around me, and how to approach my fears.

If I had to pay for those classes, I wouldn't feel encouraged regardless if my peers continuously advised me to. In my head, I would be thinking why spend money for a college class when I could save it until later on until I know that I am mentally ready.

Kathleen Mones

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**Testimony presented before the Senate Committees on Education and Higher
Education and the Arts**

February 10, 2015 at 1:15 pm

Junior, W.R. Farrington High School

I am recently taking a college class this semester and as expected, I'm developing more sense in learning a new particular subject that I've never taken before which is a good start and a new experience to begin with as I balance myself in working through my high school subjects as well. This given opportunity was a privilege to take because this benefits me to expand on my knowledge to learn more about classes outside of high school and prepares me in what is expected to do when attending college. Also, this process in having early college class makes it worthy and valuable to students who are willing to be really serious and determined with their own education. It makes it a whole lot easier for students to achieve their goals much faster as well, to what they actually had thought of before.

Through this program, I was actually convinced in how they offered college classes to be free which made me think that it was really a big deal of an opportunity. However, if it turns out to be the opposite, then I'd most likely have to decline considering the cost because it is expensive and I wouldn't want to burden my parents in having to pay that amount when I don't really need that class yet. My goals and aspirations are to attend a university and to major a particular health/medical field. Although I am a bit unsure of what major to take, it is clear that taking early college class will make it become easier for me to engage in my interests and know what is best for me as I explore classes that may be seen interestingly enough for me, or something that might not be fit for me. It also lets me prepare on certain tasks that needs to be done as a college student and how responsibility is extremely important. Through this early college class, it made me realize that education shouldn't be taken for granted but a starting point for a successful life in always having to work hard to reach that goal. It isn't done any easier way but it was made possible for us in order to help us pursue our dreams or goals and have the ambition to start learning new every step of the way through education.

Marie Christine F. Sebastian


Signature

Testimony presented before the Senate Committees on Education and higher
Education and the Arts

February 10, 2015 at 1:15 pm

By: Mary Ann Esteban
Senior, Farrington High School

SB 374 Relating to Dual Credit Programs

On my senior year at Farrington, Honolulu Community College has given many students the privilege to not only experience College classes, but also it served as a foundation for us, the incoming freshmen in College or in University. Early Colleges, specifically Running Start, which I currently am taking, has given me more opportunities and a vast collection of knowledge. Not only did I learn new interesting information, but I also met a lot of wonderful friends, which I was glad I did. Through this early college class opportunities, I was able to figure out that it is where I found the best class and teacher I've ever had thus far since I started school. This opportunity has given me a lot improvement. Although, there will always be a room for growth.

If I had to pay, I don't think I would be able to sign up and apply for these early college classes. Due to financial shortage, no matter how much I love to take these courses, I am certain that I am unable to take these classes. Hence, the good part about now is that there are these amazing people who are willing to help us in any way they can. I am more than grateful to them because if not because of them, I wouldn't have experienced how fun and amazing it would be to take early college classes. I believe that by taking these early college classes such as running start, I am more confident to achieve my goals in life as well as my dream career. I also believe that no matter how big the struggle is for me who takes these courses, I know that I am a step ahead from the others.



Mary Ann Esteban

Testimony presented before the Senate Committees on Education and Higher Education and the
Arts

February 10, 2015 at 1:15pm

By: Rodney Acosta

Rodney Acosta, W.R. Farrington High School

SB 374 Relating to Dual Credit Programs

Having the opportunity of taking college classes at an earlier age gives us an idea of what college really is and prepares us academically by helping us transition from high school to college standards. Coming from a child of middle-class, I want to take early college classes so I may further advance my future and bring a better source of wealth and income to me and my family. But if I were to pay for these courses, I do not think I would be able to take these classes. Money as it is, is already a struggle for many families, including mine. Free courses like this gives us an opportunity at a better chance of success if taken seriously. My life goals are to apply and attend a high rep college, graduate with a master's, and then go for a high income job that can support my family's needs. By taking early college classes, I am able to approach this goal at an earlier age, giving me more space and time for me to commit other beneficial activities as well, such as part-time jobs, take more activities and programs that will develop a well-rounded skill set, and explore more opportunities in life that I wouldn't have done due to how busy college already puts you through.

Rodney Acosta

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Rodney Acosta", written in dark ink.

Testimony presented before the Senate Committees on Education and Higher Education
and Arts

February 10, 2015 at 1:15 pm

By: Shaina Jennifer C. Acosta

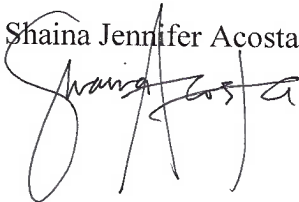
Junior, W.R. Farrington High School

SB 374 Relating to Dual Credit Programs

As a student who strives for good education, early college classes provide me the opportunity to learn in a higher level. Courses such as Advance Placement and Running Start programs are consist of rigorous work that can rarely be seen in a high school learning environment. The lessons that we had to tackle are different from what normal high school courses offers. Such courses presents challenges, however, I am aware that these challenges will benefit me in the end and aid me reach my dream of becoming an Accountant.

Even though early college classes offer various benefits, I would not have taken the course if I had to pay. Most low income students like myself do not have the resources to pay for advance courses. Even if I wanted to participate in such program, I would not due to financial difficulty. I am pleased to know that W.R. Farrington High School offers early college classes for free since it gives hard working students like myself an opportunity to better ourselves.

Shaina Jennifer Acosta

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shaina Jennifer Acosta', written over the printed name.

Testimony presented before the Senate Committees on Education and High Education and the
Arts

February 10, 2015 at 1:15pm

By: Sunshine Mae Pascual
Senior, W.R. Farrington High School

SB 374 Relating to Dual Credit Programs

I've been taking early college classes since the beginning of my senior year, and this is the second class I am taking. Taking early college classes is beneficial to me because I have been able to see how college life is, and what to expect. It has really taught me that college classes and high school classes are totally different, because the teachers treat you like adults and expect more from us. It allowed me to adapt to a college life that I will soon face. It also opened my eyes because I actually thought that college classes would be chill, and relaxed like my other classes, but it totally proved me wrong. College classes goes at a faster pace, and throughout time, it's given me the opportunity to change my attitude and adapt to the way college classes goes. I've been able to adapt techniques, such as studying and reading every night preparing myself for the next class. If I had to pay for early college classes, then I wouldn't be taking the class because my parents do not have the money to pay for a class like this. My parents are barely making it, and to tell them that they needed to pay for a college class worth \$400+ would give them a heart attack. My goal is to become a civil engineer or an electrical engineer. Taking these college classes will help me because they will boost my abilities and let me adapt to a more advanced course. It will give me an advance step, because I will be able to handle what college life will throw at me. In other words, I will be a step ready then most of my classmates because these classes will have taught me what I need to do in order to be successful in a college class. Therefore I am grateful for the idea of taking early college classes because it gives us a taste of what to expect when we go college.

Sunshine Mae Pascual

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sunshine Mae Pascual". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid, with the first name "Sunshine" being the most prominent part.

Testimony presented before the Senate Committees on Education and Higher Education and
the Arts

February 10, 2015 at 1:15 pm

By: Angelica Almilla

Student, W.R. Farrington High School

SB 374 Relating to Dual Credit Programs

My name is Angelica Almilla. I am currently a junior in Farrington, I took a Running Start Speech course last semester, and I am presently attending an on campus Psychology class including an AP class during school hours. Taking these classes will benefit me in the future because not only can I get rid of a high school credit early, this will also decrease a credit needed for college. Although some colleges may not accept these Running Start courses, they will still help me with applications and I'll have these classes and experience for future references. Furthermore, if I were required to pay for these classes, I won't be able to take advantage of this opportunity, for I am aware that paying for college courses consumes a lot of money. Last but not least, taking early college classes can help me reach my goal, though having an early over view and experience of what's to come after high school.

Angelica Almilla

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Angelica Almilla', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Signature

Testimony presented before the Senate Committees on Education and Higher Education and
the Arts

February 10, 2015 at 1:15pm

By: Mc Neil Rosete

Grade 12, W.R. Farrington High School

SB 374 Relating to Dual Credit Programs

Taking early college classes has benefited me considerably. Being in an early college class gives me the chance to learn high-quality information while still attending high school. Attending early college classes also helps with the transition from a high school environment to a college environment. Not only that, but it gave me the privilege to achieve college credits along with high school credits.

With that being said, having these early college classes helps me to grow closer to my aspirations of working in the culinary field. By taking programs like Running Start, I'm able to achieve college credits, thus, shortening the prerequisites that I need to take and shortening my time in college. I want to graduate with a degree in Culinary Arts as soon as possible so I can start assisting my family. Without programs like Running Start, I wouldn't be able to pay for these early college classes, and I wouldn't be closer to my goal.

Choosing to have an early college class is one of the most important and fulfilling decision that I have made.

Mc Neil Rosete

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mc Neil Rosete", written in a cursive style.

Testimony presented before the Senate Committees on Education and High Education and the
Arts

February 10, 2015

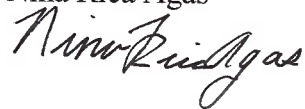
By: Nina Rica Agas

Junior, W.R. Farrington High School

SB 374 Relating to Dual Credit Program

It has been an honor to be given the chance to take early college classes to my fellow classmates and I. Taking this early college class had benefit me by giving me the chance to experiment how it would be like to be in a college class and what to expect even if I am still a junior. It has also benefitted me because it gave me the opportunity to gain college credits while in high school. It also assisted me with boosting up my grade point average to be placed in a higher honors category when graduating. If I had to pay to take these classes during my high school year, I would not take it because I would be putting my money on other things like class dues, club fees, etc, that is needed for me to get through my high school days. Taking early college class has aspired me to take the extra step and attend college because it will not only help me in the future but it also helps me recognize who I really am. It can help me reach my goal by providing the experiences and knowledge needed in the college life. Without early college classes, I believe that students wouldn't have the chance to gain more knowledge along with what they learn from their high school classes.

Nina Rica Agas

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nina Rica Agas". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the printed name.

Testimony presented before the Senate Committees on Education and Higher Education and
the Arts

February 10, 2015 at 1:15pm

By: Noreen Antonio

Senior, W.R. Farrington High School

SB 374 Relating to Dual Credit Programs

Taking an early college class will benefit me because I am able to experience, while still in high school, the responsibilities a college student has. I am able to balance my time better because I must keep track of my high school classes as well as my college course. If I had to pay for this class, I wouldn't have joined because as a senior in high school, there are other expenses that must be paid for, like college applications. By taking this college class, I have the chance to become an honor graduate student of my high school because I didn't have to take another AP course which would've been more stressful for me. It's because AP classes are for the whole school year, while taking early college classes are only for a semester and only twice a week. By taking this early college course, I am one step closer to reaching my goal of becoming a Veterinarian. I will already have college credits when I graduate from high school which gives me fewer credits to worry about.

Noreen Antonio

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Noreen Antonio".

Testimony presented before the Senate Committees on Education and Higher Education
and the Arts

February 10, 2015 at 1:15pm

By: Rhea Mae Bala

Junior, W.R. Farrington High School

SB 374 Relating to Dual Credit Programs

Taking an early college class has benefited me because it's preparing me for college itself. By taking a class, I can get used to the environment of a college class, the workload, and the pace. Taking a free college class is a privilege that I am truly grateful for. If I had to pay, I could not take the class because I would have to pay the full price; something my parents would not be willing to do. The free college classes on campus allows full priced students to have the same opportunity as those who are free/reduced lunch and can take those college classes at a lower price.

One of my goals is to go to college. Not only that, but to go to college on the mainland. By taking college classes, it shows on my transcript that I've taken challenging classes throughout the time that I've been in high school. With that and my extracurricular activities, I hope that it can contribute to my acceptance to a few mainland colleges that my parents would be willing to let me attend.

Rhea Mae Bala



From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Cc:
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB374 on Feb 10, 2015 13:15PM
Date: Monday, February 09, 2015 3:43:41 PM

SB374

Submitted on: 2/9/2015

Testimony for EDU/HEA on Feb 10, 2015 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brenda Coston	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: I am currently working for Honolulu Community College teaching ENG 100 at Pearl City High School on T and TR after high school is over for the day. The program is going quite well. Students are eager to attend class and are completing assignments and doing very well. Having classes as dual enrollment or early high school gives students a prelude of coming attractions and makes them excited about continuing their studies at HCC when they have graduated from high school.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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