

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

240

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 13 2007

RE: S.B. No. 767
S.D. 1

Honorable Colleen Hanabusa
President of the Senate
Twenty-Fourth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2007
State of Hawaii

Madam:

Your Committee on Education, to which was referred S.B. No. 767 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to appropriate funds to cover the costs of public high school students participating in high school graduation ceremonies.

Testimony in support of this measure was submitted by the Hawaii State Teachers Association.

Your Committee finds that although high school graduation is an auspicious and momentous event for students and their families, the high costs associated with participating in not only graduation ceremonies but also other graduation-related activities can deter participation. Your Committee further finds that high school graduation signifies an important achievement and is a memorable time for many students, particularly those who do not continue to pursue post-secondary education. Your Committee believes that assistance should be provided to public high school seniors to participate in graduation ceremonies or other graduation-related activities that they would otherwise be unable to participate in due to financial issues.

Your Committee heard a related measure, Senate Bill No. 833, which provides funding for Project Graduation events throughout the State. Your Committee understands that the graduation

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ceremonies and other related activities planned, such as Project Graduation events, can vary significantly in degree and expense. In the interest of fairness, your Committee believes that it is appropriate to provide an equal amount of funds for each graduating high school senior that can be used for any and all graduation activities, regardless of the actual expense of the graduation activities planned for any school.

Accordingly, your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Changing the language throughout the measure to provide funds to assist public high school seniors in covering costs associated with high school graduations and related activities; and
- (2) Specifying that the amounts provided to schools shall be calculated based on the total number of high school seniors estimated to be graduating that school year on a per student basis.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Education that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 767, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 767, S.D. 1, and be referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Education,




NORMAN SAKAMOTO, Chair



The Senate
Twenty-Fourth Legislature
State of Hawaii

Record of Votes
Committee on Education
EDU

Bill / Resolution No.:* <i>SB 767</i>	Committee Referral: <i>EDU, WAMP</i>	Date: <i>02/07/07</i>		
<input type="checkbox"/> The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is: <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
SAKAMOTO, Norman (C)	X			
TOKUDA, Jill N. (VC)	X			
CHUN OAKLAND, Suzanne	X			
HEE, Clayton	X			
NISHIHARA, Clarence K.	X			
TANIGUCHI, Brian T.	X			
GABBARD, Mike	X			
TOTAL	<i>7</i>			
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature:				
				
Distribution: Original Yellow Pink File with Committee Report Clerk's Office Drafting Agency				

*Only one measure per Record of Votes