

Date: 02/14/2011

Committee: House Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: HB 0531 Relating to Education

Purpose of Bill: Requires school complexes to develop and implement college entrance examination prep courses for public high school students. Requires students to complete prep course in order to graduate.

Department's Position: The Department of Education (Department) does not support HB 531. In order to implement college entrance examination preparation courses specifically for standardized college admissions examinations, schools would need to increase their budgets to pay for such courses. At this time, the Department has advisory courses which help students with their Personal Transition Plan. Many of these advisory courses include preparation for taking standardized college admissions examinations. Currently, students are able to voluntarily prepare for standardized college admissions examinations online for free. The Department is planning development of the College and Career Ready Diploma but implementation has not yet begun. However, this College and Career Ready Diploma will continue to require a Personal Transition Plan for each student.

1564 N. King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817

**W.R. Farrington High
School**

Fax

To: The Honorable Roy Tokumi, The
Committee on Education Chairperson

From: W.R. Farrington High School students

Fax: 586-9431

Pages: ²³~~25~~ including this cover sheet

Phone:

Date: 2/11/2011

Re: Student support testimony for HB 531,
Relating to College Entrance Examination
Courses

CC:

Urgent For Review Please Comment Please Reply Please Recycle

● Each student's testimony is under 5 pages. We are faxing them as a set. We thank you in advance for considering the testimony we have written.

To: The Honorable Roy Tokumi

The Honorable Della Au Belatti

And members of The Committee on Education

Date: Monday February 14, 2011

2:05pm Room 309

Re: H.B531, Relating to College Entrance Examination Courses

Position: Strong Support

I live in a two bedroom apartment with my parents, two younger sisters and younger brother. I am not as privileged as other teenagers and money in our family is very tight.

Not always having enough money, however, has never been an issue when it came to focusing in school. My goal is to graduate high school and attend Chaminade University. This will be especially hard considering I don't have the resources to pay for the help I need for me to get good SAT scores in order to get in.

I support this bill because will benefit me and other students like me who don't have the resources to pay for the help needed to get good scores on the SAT and want to get into a four year college.

Genine Marie, WRFHS Law and Justice Academy student

To: The Honorable Roy Tokumi, (Chair)

The Honorable Della Au Belatti, (Vice Chair)

Members of The Committee on Education

Date: Monday, February 14, 2011

2:05pm Room 309

Re: HB531, relating to college

Entrance examination courses

Position: strong support

I, Taniela Manu Prescott, as a student athlete of Farrington high school, becoming a mature student, entering high school, and making right decisions to accomplish my goals in life, humbly support this bill because getting a good education and high scores on my SAT can help me strive to accomplish my goals, which is to get into a division one college (4 years) and play football. This sat course would be a big opportunity for me because high SAT scores are required for Div. 1 college requirements.

To: The Honorable Roy Tokumi, (Chair)

The Honorable Della AuBellati, (Vice Chair)

And members of The Committee on Education

Date: Monday, February 14, 2011 2:05 pm Room 309

Re: HB531, Relating to College Entrance Examination Courses

Position: Strong Support

I am a student at Farrington High School and I support this bill very strongly because I think that it is good for future high school students to get good scores on the SAT's so that they can get into their dream college. I want to go to a four year college so that I can major in either Forensic Science or Chemistry. The College Entrance Exam will help me prepare for the SAT and I will also have better vocabulary. I also play basketball and baseball for my school and I hope to play baseball in college. I want to be a student-athlete so I need to do well in school and sports. Even if this bill passes and wouldn't be effective in time before we graduate, it will still work for this year's Freshmen and all other classes beyond that. I think this course would be really helpful to them because they could get a head start and have a lot of knowledge about a really important test in their life. If students take the course, then more students can take the SAT with a lot of confidence and then the percentage of high school students going to college will be higher than it was in the past years.

Thank you for your consideration and support,

Bradley (Student of Farrington High School Law & Justice Academy)

To: The Honorable Roy Tokumi, (Chair)

The Honorable Della AuBelatti, (Vice Chair)

And members of The Committee on Education

Date: Monday, February 14, 2011

2:05 Room 309

Re: HB531, Relating to College

Entrance Examination Courses

Position: Strong Support

I support this bill very strongly, why? Because I believe it'll give our students better opportunities to get into great colleges. We believe in giving kids the best education possible and what better way to do it? It'll make such a difference in our education system, and it gives public school students the chance to get the same education that private school students have. I want to go to a four year college and become a lawyer, or have an occupation in the Law & Justice System, and I know that if we're given these classes to help us prepare for our SAT's, I think it'll make us excel as students, and we'll be able to go to college and have a sense of pride of where we come from. I want people to look at Farrington students and be like "Look at where THEY came from; and look at where they're at now."

Growing up, we weren't necessarily poor; we just struggled a lot with bills and many other things. My dad worked, while my mom stayed home and took care of my sisters & I. So we basically lived off paycheck by paycheck. But that didn't stop my parents from encouraging us to go to school and to make something of ourselves in the world. I remember just sitting around with my parents and sisters, and we just talked about the

future and how we'd do so many things. It seemed so nice to think about. When my sisters graduated, they both went to college; unfortunately, reality hit and my dad had a stroke. Both of my sisters dropped out of college to take care of my dad and have not gone back since. Things just got so busy, and they're planning to go back to college, but are still hesitant due to my dad's health. This is why I want to go to a four year college and support my parents because they've stressed over enough, and it's time I took care of them. I know it'd make my parents proud to see their daughter making something great of herself, or at least trying. And that's why I support this bill, because it should be required for public schools to have these classes, and for it to be free, because not all of us have the money to pay for those classes and that kind of education. It would be great to have it as part of our school day, because then students would want to come to class because it has to do with our future. Even though this bill will probably be passed Next Year and we'll have graduated by then, I hope that the people who get the opportunity to have this at their schools will take advantage of it and make better futures for themselves and the generations to come.

Thank You for caring about our education (:

Uso, Law&Justice Academy Student

To: The Honorable Roy Tokumi (Chair)
The Honorable Della Au Belatti (Vice Chair)
And members of the Committee on Education

Date: Monday, February 11, 2011
2:05 pm Room 309

Re: HB531, Relating to College Entrance Examination Courses

Position: Strong Support

As a student-athlete, a member of the mock trial team of W.R. Farrington High School, I am a Junior, I STRONGLY encourage the passage of this bill HB531, Relating to College Entrance Examination Courses because of my future. Our economy is on a downfall so for three reasons, I hope and pray for the best decision possible. One, I come from a family with a very low income that also supports five of my other siblings. They too, also have dreams of one day making a difference for a better place. Two, I am a student athlete that wants to attend a four year college and further my career. I'm a strong supporter of passing this bill because this could help develop my skills in writing and poor comprehension. We need a course that would help better prepare us for test taking and getting out there just like I'olani students who already have college test preparation classes that help them in advance. As a student athlete, I need this course to accurately predict what areas I need to focus on to help me get into college. I also need the course to help me get scores to qualify and actually get into college. By having this opportunity, we have an advantage to get scholarship money. Especially for students like me with 5 siblings, and parents who don't get paid enough to support all of us. Lastly, I pray and hope for the best decision because I also would like to further my dream in law. I could use the scores as a future pathway to plan the future. I already know what I want to be and by having a college entrance examination course, the Lord only knows how it will help other families, too, who are in depth and helping their kids survive in the real world.

Thank you for this Bill and best wishes, prayers, and hope in deciding the BEST choice.

Respectfully,

Litea, student-athlete, W.R Farrington High School Mock trial team member, and Law and Justice Academy student

To: The Honorable Roy Tokumi, (Chair)
The Honorable Della AuBelatti, (Vice Chair)
And members of The Committee on Education

Date: Monday, February 14, 2011
2:05 p.m. Room 309

Re: HB531, Relating to College
Entrance Examination Courses

Position: Strong Support

I grew up in a neighborhood that's full of high school drop outs and students that aren't putting their high school diploma in a good use. My parents can't afford to put me in a class that'll help prepare me for college, but I know if I ask them, they'll do everything they can to give me that education because they want what's best for my future. I'm writing to you as a student that's fighting for her education because I have brothers that are stepping up and our parents aren't always going to be there for us. What I'm trying to say is, I don't want to be a burden to my folks anymore. They already have enough to deal with, especially when taxes is increasing. I want to study in a four year college and pursue my major in criminal justice, but in order for this to work out I need to score high in SAT. Every student would want a free course that will prepare us for the SAT. If we have enough practice before the test, we'll be the one's running after the test instead of us running from the test and try to make up some lame excuse just so we don't have to take it. In addition to that, everybody that gave up on the test, it was not because they didn't know what to do, but it's because they didn't have that guidance that will lead them to the right path. I realize that we develop more skills and learn more if the teacher's there to guide us and making sure that we're on the right track, instead of learning something new by ourselves and end up going of track.

Thank you for supporting the bill and all the public school, we really appreciate your time and effort!!!

Solema (Farrington Law & Justice Academy Mocktrial Team Member)

To: The Honorable Roy Takumi, (Chair)
The Honorable Della AuBelatti, (Vice Chair)
And members of The Committee on Education

Date: Monday, February 14, 2011
2:05pm Room 309

Re: HB531, Relating to College Entrance Examination Courses

Position: Strong Support

Being from the public educational school of W.R Farrington, I strongly believe a pre college course related to the standardized test should be provided to us students because education in the future is very important to me, and it is a way for me to be successful. Applying to a four year college takes not only hard work but also from past and pre knowledge from high school experiences. If teachers are not able to teach high levels of education to students, then what is the sense to try and get into a university when background knowledge to be examined will not meet the standards. This would also possibly mean an accomplishment for me to be the first one in my family to study at a four year university and not just a two year college. I don't want anyone to say negative put downs and from this showing my skills will make many happy. A class to be offered to me that includes help and support will better myself and also I will be a influence to many of my peers. I understand that struggle is already showing in my learning to become a college level student, and this is why college entrance courses to be instructed would be a desire and opportunity for myself to exceed. Thank you for supporting this bill and trying to make Hawaii's education worth more.

Jaelen, W.R Farrington High School Law and Justice Academy

To: The Honorable Roy Tokumi, (Chair)

The Honorable Della Au Belatti, (Vice Chair)

And Members of The Committee on Education

Date: Monday, February 14, 2011

2:05 pm Room 309

Re: H.B. 531, Relating to College Entrance Examination Courses

Position: STRONG SUPPORT

As a student of W.R. Farrington High School, I encourage the passage of the Bill H.B. 531 because I am a member of the Law and Justice Academy and have strong aspirations to attend the highest college possible. Although there are other SAT prep courses, they cost hundreds of dollars that I DO NOT have. Hawaii also has the lowest test scored and I strongly believe we can change that and make more students prepared in the future. I can surely tell you that if I were to take the test now, I would not have a bit of confidence in my knowledge or skills needed to pass and I speak for more than just myself.

Thank you for your support.

Brandie (W.R. Farrington High School Law and Justice Student)

To: The Honorable Roy Tokumi, (Chair)
The Honorable Della AuBelatti, (Vice Chair)
And members of The Committee on Education

Date: Monday, February 14, 2011

2:05 PM Room 309

Re: H.B531, Relating to College Entrance Examination Courses

Position: Strong Support

This bill concerns the education of public high school students, and it would affect the lives, education, and the future of these students in a good way. This would help the students focus more on college and be motivated to learn and go far in life. As a student of Farrington High School, I believe that it would be very helpful for students to have college preparation classes. I believe that everyone should have the opportunity to enter in a 4-year college. I believe that the college prep classes would help student prepare for what is on the entrance exams, like the SATs. Having this college prep class would help students pass entrance exams and to be what they want to be in life.

Another good point for this bill is that the classes would be during school hours and this would help students focus on school rather than worrying about having college prep classes outside of school or during the summer. In addition, this college prep class would be free, and this would help students because they do not have to pay anything for the class, rather than paying money for outside help. I strongly believe that this college preparation class would help public high school students get into a college that would help them be successful in life.

I want to go to a four-year college and become a forensic scientist. Having a college preparation class would help me review for college entrance exams and help me get into a college that would help me become a forensic scientist. The fact that this class would be free will help because my parents don't have to worry about the payment for the class.

Thank you for supporting our education and for future generations to come. May you reconsider helping public high school students to be better and go to college to go farther in life.

Cindy (A member of Farrington High School's Law and Justice Academy)

To: The Honorable Roy Tokumi, (Chair)
The Honorable Della AuBelatti, (Vice Chair)
And members of The Committee on Education

Date: Monday, February 14, 2011

2:05 pm Room 309

Re: H.B 531, Relating to College Entrance Examination Courses

Position: Strong Support

I go to a public high school that offers a lot of good courses for us. It allows us to join an academy that we choose, which focuses on a specific field of work that we might have an interest in. It does not, however, provide us with a course that will better prepare us for the college entrance exam. Most students who go through high school without taking the right preparations for the college entrance exam end up getting low scores on the SAT's and aren't able to get into good colleges.

Most of the students that want to have the opportunity to be able to have the college preparation classes are not able to afford it, like me. In many situations, families aren't always able to pay almost three hundred dollars for their children to take those classes.

So, if this bill is passed, and those much needed classes are required in school for free, it will open many doors for all students. It will also give public school students an opportunity to be at a good level with other private school students. It will be a great thing for the future generations. It can give students the extra push to get closer to their goals. It will make the goals seem more possible and easy to achieve.

Respectfully,

Andrea M.K. (Member of Farrington High School's Law & Justice academy)

TO: The Honorable Roy Tokumi, (Chair)

The Honorable Delia Au Belatti, (Vice Chair)

And members of The Committee of Education

DATE: Monday, February 14, 2011

2:05 PM Room 309

RE: HB 531, Relating to College Entrance Examination Courses

POSITION: Strongly Support

As a student of Wallace Rider Farrington High School, I am a strong advocate for HB 531. I am also a member of the Honolulu District Student Council and am Junior Class Vice-President, so I understand the importance of quality public school education. SAT and ACT prep classes are available online or in schools, but to my understanding, they are costly. Being a member of the Upward Bound program, a program dedicated to preparing free or reduced lunch students for college, I am very fortunate to receive free SAT and ACT courses. Not all students are able to have such a luxury, which is why I spoke to Representative Manahan about my concern. I hope to see students getting the proper education that they deserve, even if they may be from a low income family. After speaking with my peers, I have found that most students are not properly informed about the SATs or ACTs and how colleges look at those test score when considering them for admission. Many students feel that they are taking a test that is foreign to them. Personally, I have high hopes of getting into my dream college and pursuing a career in Law. No one wants to see low SAT and ACT scores stop students from doing well. That is why the implementation of this bill would ensure that students are prepared for further education after high school. Even for students who decide not to attend four-year colleges, they will gain test taking skills and great self-confidence. College entrance examination courses will relieve the anxiety that students feel as they are taking rigorous exams. High school students will also learn how to manage time during tests. This bill will help students reach their full potential and realize that they do not need to settle for less.

House Bill 531 is a great leap towards Hawaii's students being able to compete at the same level as others throughout the nation. With your support, this bill will help to put Hawaii on the map as a state producing hard-working, intelligent, and well-prepared young minds. Thank you for your time and efforts in supporting our education and I hope that you will consider HB 531.

Rona Lee (Farrington HS Junior Council Vice-President and Honolulu District Representative)

TO: The Honorable Roy Tokumi, (Chair)

The Honorable Delia Au Belatti, (Vice Chair)

And members of The Commmittee of Education

DATE: Monday, February 14, 2011

2:05 PM Room 309

RE: HB 531, Relating to College Entrance Examination Courses

POSITION: Strongly Support

As a student of W.R. Farrington High School and a member of the Law & Justice Academy, I strongly support and encourage the passage of House Bill 531. This bill will give students a chance and also get them ready to experience college. This bill will give students an opportunity to look forward to a successful future. As said, "Education is the key to success." HB 531 will really help us in getting a good score in our SATs so that we can get into four year colleges. Thank you for understanding and helping us in our education.

Diana (W.R. Farrington HS Law & Justice Academy Student)

TO: The Honorable Roy Tokumi, (Chair)

The Honorable Delia Au Belatti, (Vice Chair)

And members of The Committee of Education

DATE: Monday, February 14, 2011

2:05 PM Room 309

RE: HB 531, Relating to College Entrance Examination Courses

POSITION: Strongly Support

As a student from Farrington High School and a part of the Law & Justice Academy, I strongly support and encourage HB 531, because this will give students a golden opportunity for their future. This bill would help students be well prepared for the SATs and could get them into amazing colleges. This could change many perspectives of our state, because not a lot of graduates I know step foot out of Hawaii to mainland colleges. They either stay here for college or head out into the military.

This bill could change a lot of students' lives. In my personal experiences, my sister has been through a dilemma relating to the SATs. She planned on going to colleges on the mainland, like Washington State University, but due to her poor scores on the SAT, she ended up staying here for college. I am not saying that it is a bad idea to stay in Hawaii for college, but I believe that Hawaii students should explore the world and their options. This bill would help student get very far in life.

I believe that this bill is a great idea and I wish that someone had thought of a bill like this before. Again, not a lot of Hawaii students head off to colleges, and this bill will definitely help increase the chances of students, like me, to head off to four year colleges. Thank you so much for taking the time and reading my testimony.

Valerie (W.R. Farrington High School; Law & Justice Academy student)

TO: The Honorable Roy Tokumi, (Chair)

The Honorable Delia Au Belatti, (Vice Chair)

And members of The Commmittee of Education

DATE: Monday, February 14, 2011

2:05 PM Room 309

RE: HB 531, Relating to College Entrance Examination Courses

POSITION: Strongly Support

As a student of Farrington High School, I strongly encourage the passage of this bill HB 531 because preparing students to take the SAT test to enter college would most likely give us a high chance to pass. For example, there are students out there that may be good in math or maybe reading, although, when it comes to taking the SAT test, their minds become blank. They might not be familiar with the writing process or the math problems. This is why I strongly support this bill because if we have these classes to prepare ourselves, we would most likely know what to do and have confidence in answers. In this case, this would definitely benefit all students who would take this class because not only would they get good scores, but they would also gain more high level knowledge. Thank you for your support.

Miranda (Farrington High School Law & Justice Academy)

TO: The Honorable Roy Tokumi, (Chair)

The Honorable Delia Au Belatti, (Vice Chair)

And members of The Committee of Education

DATE: Monday, February 14, 2011

2:05 PM Room 309

RE: HB 531, Relating to College Entrance Examination Courses

POSITION: Strongly Support

As a student of W.R. Farrington High School, I strongly encourage the passage of this bill. This will help a lot of students and it will also increase the percentage of students going to colleges with good SAT scores. Instead of repeating the same way of having the test, we should change it for the better. Public school students will have a better chance of getting good scores when they take college entrance exams. It will definitely benefit us students in the future.

Thank you for supporting and for taking your time on this bill.

Kathy (Farrington High School Law & Justice Academy)

TO: The Honorable Roy Tokumi, (Chair)
The Honorable Della Au Belatti, (Vice Chair)
And Members of The Committee of Education

DATE: Monday, February 14, 2011

2:05pm Room 309

POSITION: Strong Support

As a student of WR Farrington High School, I believe this bill should pass. If this bill passes, it will help me and others when they take the SAT test. I believe everybody should have an opportunity to go to a 4 year college. I am an average athlete, and a cheerleader, who is in the Law and Justice Academy. I would want to be able to go to a 4 year college after high school. I strongly believe there should be classes to prepare us for the SAT test. Therefore, it'll help us a whole lot, and give us a more better chance of getting into a 4 year college.

Thank you for supporting our education.

Ellenjoy (WR Farrington High School, Law and Justice Academy, Junior)

To: The Honorable Roy Tokumi,(chair)

The Honorable Della AuBelatti,(vice chair)

And members of The Committee on Education

Date: Monday, February 14, 2011

2:05 Room 309

Re: HB531 Relating to college

Entrance Examination Courses

Position: STRONG SUPPORT

You may not know a lot about me and I may not know anything about you except that I know for a fact that you all are here for a specific bill relating to college entrance examination courses at this time of day. I am a current student attending Farrington High School and am here in school supporting this bill. I'm also in the Law and Justice academy trying to learn everything about the law so that one day I might be a lawyer maybe even become a wise judge one day. But one thing that's preventing me from reaching my goals and dreams is the cost of the PSAT which I would love to take but cannot because of the cost of a test that's too expensive. And would appreciate it if I could take the test so as my generation school teens could all take it too so we could get into a four year college. Thank you

Sincerely,

Selena

TO: The Honorable Roy Tokumi, (Chair)

The Honorable Della Au Belatti, (vice chair)

And members of the Committee on Education

Date: Monday, February 14, 2011
2:03 pm Room 309

Re: H.B. 531, Relating to College Entrance Examination

Courses

Position: Strong support

is a High School student of Kailini and a member

of The Law and Justice Academy, I support and also

encourage the passage of this bill H.B. 531. The reason

is that this bill will benefit students everywhere in Oahu

who want to prepare for the SGT that will be the beginning

of their journey to their future. This bill will help by giving

the students knowledge and preparation skills to help them

pass the college entrance examination. A lot of students don't

attend college because they don't pass the entrance exam and

don't have enough money to pay for this type of class. This

course will raise the percentage of students that attend

college.

Thank you in advance for helping support a cause

that will help us, the students, get all the knowledge

Dina (Farrington High School
Law & Justice Academy)

As a student of Farrington High School, I strongly encourage this bill to pass as a student athlete, I would like to play college basketball, and I need good scores on my SAT's in order to get into college. Also I would like a chance to earn scholarships.

Position: Strong support

RT: HB531, relating to college

ENTRANCE EXAMINATION COURSES

2:05 pm Room 309

DATE: Monday, February 14, 2011

TO: THE HONORABLE ROY TOKUMI (chair)
THE HONORABLE DIANA AUBRETTI (vice chair)
AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing this in support of House Bill Number 531, calling for mandatory college admission test prep classes for public school students. This type of class would greatly benefit students who come from families that cannot afford the high tuition costs of test prep programs offered in the state. Farrington High School, a Title I School, is in the process of creating a greater "college-going" culture on campus. If funding is provided for such a class, it would greatly enhance our student's chances of being accepted to college, and thus attaining their post-high school goals.

Sincerely,

Regan Honda
College/career Counselor
W.R. Farrington High School