



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR

July 11, 2007

The Honorable Colleen Hanabusa, President
and Members of the Senate
Twenty-Fourth State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 409
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Madam President and Members of the Senate:

Re: House Bill No. 767 HD2 SD2 CD1

On July 10, 2007, House Bill No. 767, entitled "A Bill for an Act Relating to the Running Start Program for College Preparation" became law without my signature, pursuant to Section 16 of Article III of the State Constitution.

The purpose of this bill to require the Department of Education to provide students who participate in the Running Start Program with guidance in how to earn credit toward high school graduation through the satisfactory completion of University of Hawaii courses, and to provide funding for scholarships to students who participate in the Running Start Program.

Although the intent of this legislation is laudable, the funding does not appear essential at this time. Scholarship monies for the Running Start Program are funded through GEAR UP – Hawaii, a federally financed program. It appears federal support is likely to continue for this program.

Scholarships for the Running Start program were not identified as a priority for the University of Hawaii in their Board of Regents approved biennium budget request. Further, University of Hawaii has the ability to waive tuition for needy students in the program.

For the foregoing reason, I allowed House Bill No. 767 to become law as Act 282, effective July 10, 2007, without my signature.

Sincerely,

LINDA LINGLE