
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL
ASSISTANCE TO STUDENTS FROM PACIFIC ISLAND JURISDICTIONS
THAT HAVE HISTORICAL TIES TO THE UNITED STATES BUT DO NOT
HAVE PUBLIC HIGHER EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS THAT GRANT
BACCALAUREATE DEGREES.

1 WHEREAS, Hawaii has the largest Pacific Islander population
2 of any state, both in real numbers and as a percentage of total
3 population; and

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5 WHEREAS, in 1997, the Office of Management and Budget
6 directed all federal agencies to classify Pacific Islanders as a
7 distinct and separate racial group called "Native Hawaiian and
8 Other Pacific Islander"; and

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10 WHEREAS, this group suffers from higher poverty rates and
11 other distressing social and economic conditions, especially in
12 the state of Hawaii; and

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14 WHEREAS, educational attainment is related to greater
15 economic success and personal well-being; and

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17 WHEREAS, greater access to financial aid is very much
18 related to college enrollment and completion; and

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20 WHEREAS, United States (U.S.) Census data reflects that
21 native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders are
22 underrepresented in higher education both at the undergraduate
23 and graduate levels; and

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25 WHEREAS, the University of Hawaii (UH) has a long history
26 of providing access to educational opportunities for individuals
27 from Pacific Island jurisdictions that have historical ties to
28 the U.S. but do not have public higher educational institutions
29 that grant baccalaureate degrees; and



1 WHEREAS, however, in 2006, UH adopted a new student
2 financial assistance policy to be implemented in Fall 2007,
3 increasing the tuition rate for these students from the resident
4 rate to 150 percent of the resident rate; and
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6 WHEREAS, the new policy allows individual UH campuses to
7 award Pacific Islander Scholarships to these students to
8 compensate for the tuition increase, but does not require the
9 scholarships to be given; now, therefore,
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11 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
12 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
13 Session of 2007, that the University of Hawaii is requested to
14 provide financial assistance to students from Pacific Island
15 jurisdictions that have historical ties to the U.S. but do not
16 have public higher educational institutions that grant
17 baccalaureate degrees; and
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19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, as part of its financial
20 assistance program, UH is requested to include:
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22 (1) The requirement that all UH campuses provide Pacific
23 Islander Scholarships to these students; or
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25 (2) Returning the tuition rate for these students to the
26 resident rate, such as that charged to other non-
27 residents including East-West Center student grantees,
28 active-duty U.S. military personnel stationed in
29 Hawaii and their authorized dependents, members of the
30 Hawaii National Guard and the U.S. military reserves,
31 native Hawaiians who claim residence outside of
32 Hawaii, and UH employees, their spouses, and their
33 dependents;
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35 and
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37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the President of UH is
38 requested to monitor the impact of the new student financial
39 assistance policy that will be implemented in Fall 2007, and
40 submit a report to the Legislature, no later than 20 days prior



to the convening of the Regular Sessions of 2008, 2009, and 2010, to include:

- (1) The number of Pacific Islander students who apply to and enroll at UH;
- (2) The total number of Pacific Islander students applying for financial assistance and the amount of unfunded financial need;
- (3) The number and amount of Pacific Islander Scholarships available and awarded;
- (4) An assessment of the impact of the new student financial assistance policy on student enrollment and retention,

as categorized by each UH campus; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii and the President of the University of Hawaii.

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