
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM TO PROVIDE HIGHER
EDUCATION TUITION WAIVERS FOR ALL ENROLLED NATIVE HAWAIIAN
STUDENTS.

1 WHEREAS, the goal of the University of Hawaii System is to
2 provide higher education for all its students; and

3
4 WHEREAS, some of those college students, specifically
5 native Hawaiian students, may need financial assistance to
6 offset Hawaii's high cost of living, and other socio-economic
7 factors; and

8
9 WHEREAS, this academic and economic support for native
10 Hawaiian students attending and graduating from the University
11 of Hawaii System can have far-reaching positive consequences for
12 the State as a whole; and

13
14 WHEREAS, native Hawaiian graduates of the University of
15 Hawaii System will be able to contribute more effectively to the
16 economic and social health of the State and of the native
17 Hawaiian peoples; and

18
19 WHEREAS, the challenge for native Hawaiian students begins
20 in the classroom, where they have the lowest college graduation
21 rates of all ethnic groups in Hawaii, and of those who are able
22 to attend college, far fewer actually graduate with a college
23 degree than students from any other ethnic group in the State;
24 and

25
26 WHEREAS, according to the University of Hawaii's
27 institutional research office and 2000 United States census,
28 native Hawaiians:



- 1 (1) Represent only 14 percent of the total University of
2 Hawaii student population, a figure that includes all
3 native Hawaiians attending the System's three four-
4 year and seven two-year campuses;
5
- 6 (2) Return for a second year of college at a lower
7 percentage compared to non-native-Hawaiian students.
8 More than 80 percent of the University of Hawaii
9 System's non-native-Hawaiian students return for a
10 second year of college, but the percentage of native
11 Hawaiian students returning is nearly ten percent
12 lower;
13
- 14 (3) Earn a low percentage of college credits and degrees.
15 Even though 25 percent of all native Hawaiians have
16 earned some college credits, most have not completed
17 their undergraduate degrees, and only 15 percent of
18 all native Hawaiians have earned at least a bachelor's
19 degree. Furthermore, only 3.2 percent of native
20 Hawaiians have earned a graduate degree of any kind,
21 compared with 8.4 percent of all Hawaii residents and
22 8.9 percent of the total United States population;
23
- 24 (4) Represent only 3.6 percent of the current doctoral
25 candidates at the University of Hawaii, and nearly 70
26 percent of native-Hawaiian candidates do not receive
27 any type of financial aid or tuition waivers; and
28
- 29 (5) Represent just four percent of all faculty positions
30 at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, and less than
31 one percent of permanently tenured positions are held
32 by native Hawaiians;

33 and
34

35 WHEREAS, the academic stress of earning a college degree is
36 dramatically increased for many native Hawaiian students by high
37 levels of economic stress; and
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39 WHEREAS, statistically, Hawaiians attending the University
40 of Hawaii are, on average, far more affected by negative
41 economic indicators than students from other ethnic groups, for
42 example, native Hawaiian students who do complete their degrees
43 take, on the average, a full year longer to do so than students
44 of other ethnic groups and many native Hawaiian students must



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1 work full- or part-time jobs while attempting to complete their
 2 college degrees. This slower-than-average completion rate is
 3 due primarily to the consequences of native Hawaiians' poor
 4 access to available socio-economic resources, combined with
 5 their ongoing need to produce income for themselves and their
 6 families and Hawaii's high cost of living; and
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8 WHEREAS, as more native Hawaiians are able to earn college
 9 degrees, more native Hawaiians can pursue the highest levels of
 10 academic and professional achievement; now, therefore,
 11

12 BE IT RESOLVED THAT by the House of Representatives of the
 13 Twenty-sixth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
 14 of 2011, the Senate concurring, that the University of Hawaii
 15 System is urged to grant a waiver of all tuition to each and
 16 every student enrolled at any of the University of Hawaii
 17 System's ten campuses who is native Hawaiian or Hawaiian; and
 18

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the student must possess a card
 20 issued by the Office of Hawaiian Affairs identifying the student
 21 as a person included in the Hawaiian registry under section 10-
 22 19, Hawaii Revised Statutes, which shall constitute conclusive
 23 proof that the student is native Hawaiian or Hawaiian; and
 24

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 26 Resolution be transmitted to University of Hawaii Board of
 27 Regents; President of the University of Hawaii; and Chair of the
 28 Board of Trustees of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs.
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 30
 31

OFFERED BY:

Karen Awana

John M. Mingo

Pede Abovitta

[Signature]
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