
HOUSE 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:
29

- 30 (1) Represent only 14 percent of the total University of
31 Hawaii student population, a figure that includes all



1 native Hawaiians attending the System's three four-
2 year and seven two-year campuses;

3
4 (2) Return for a second year of college at a lower
5 percentage compared to non-native-Hawaiian students.
6 More than 80 percent of the University of Hawaii
7 System's non-native-Hawaiian students return for a
8 second year of college, but the percentage of native
9 Hawaiian students returning is nearly ten percent
10 lower;

11
12 (3) Earn a low percentage of college credits and degrees.
13 Even though 25 percent of all native Hawaiians have
14 earned some college credits, most have not completed
15 their undergraduate degrees, and only 15 percent of
16 all native Hawaiians have earned at least a bachelor's
17 degree. Furthermore, only 3.2 percent of native
18 Hawaiians have earned a graduate degree of any kind,
19 compared with 8.4 percent of all Hawaii residents and
20 8.9 percent of the total United States population;

21
22 (4) Represent only 3.6 percent of the current doctoral
23 candidates at the University of Hawaii, and nearly 70
24 percent of native-Hawaiian candidates do not receive
25 any type of financial aid or tuition waivers; and

26
27 (5) Represent just four percent of all faculty positions
28 at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, and less than
29 one percent of permanently tenured positions are held
30 by native Hawaiians;

31 and

32
33 WHEREAS, the academic stress of earning a college degree is
34 dramatically increased for many native Hawaiian students by high
35 levels of economic stress; and

36
37 WHEREAS, statistically, Hawaiians attending the University
38 of Hawaii are, on average, far more affected by negative
39 economic indicators than students from other ethnic groups, for
40 example, native Hawaiian students who do complete their degrees
41 take, on the average, a full year longer to do so than students



1 of other ethnic groups and many native Hawaiian students must
 2 work full- or part-time jobs while attempting to complete their
 3 college degrees. This slower-than-average completion rate is
 4 due primarily to the consequences of native Hawaiians' poor
 5 access to available socio-economic resources, combined with
 6 their ongoing need to produce income for themselves and their
 7 families and Hawaii's high cost of living; and

8
 9 WHEREAS, as more native Hawaiians are able to earn college
 10 degrees, more native Hawaiians can pursue the highest levels of
 11 academic and professional achievement; now, therefore,

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

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

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

30
 31
 32

OFFERED BY:

Jessica Woolley

MAR 15 2011

Karen Awana
Karl Nhoach
John M. Figueroa
[Signature]
[Signature]
[Signature]
Mary B. Lee
[Signature]

MAR 16 2011