
HOUSE RESOLUTION

URGING THE STATE OF HAWAII TO CREATE AND FUND A STATE GRANT PROGRAM FOR NATIVE HAWAIIAN STUDENTS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII.

1 WHEREAS, the goal of the University of Hawaii System is to
2 provide higher education for all its students; and
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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
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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
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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 people; and
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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
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26 WHEREAS, according to the University of Hawaii's
27 institutional research office and 2000 United States census,
28 native Hawaiians:
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- 30 (1) Represent 22.4 percent of the total University of
31 Hawaii student population, a figure that includes all
32 native Hawaiians attending the System's three
33 baccalaureate campuses and seven community colleges;



- 1 (2) Return for a second year of college at a slightly
2 lower percentage compared to non-native-Hawaiian
3 students. More than 76.7 percent of the University of
4 Hawaii System's non-native-Hawaiian students return
5 for a second year of college, whereas the percentage
6 of native Hawaiian students returning is 76.1 percent;
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- 8 (3) Earn a low percentage of college credits and degrees.
9 Even though 25 percent of all native Hawaiians have
10 earned some college credits, most have not completed
11 their undergraduate degrees, and only 15 percent of
12 all native Hawaiians have earned at least a bachelor's
13 degree. Furthermore, only 3.2 percent of native
14 Hawaiians have earned a graduate degree of any kind,
15 compared with 8.4 percent of all Hawaii residents and
16 8.9 percent of the total United States population;
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- 18 (4) Represent only 9.5 percent of the current doctoral
19 candidates at the University of Hawaii, and nearly 38
20 percent of native Hawaiian candidates do not receive
21 any type of financial aid or tuition waivers; and
22
- 23 (5) Represent just five percent of all faculty positions
24 at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, and 3.1 percent
25 of permanently tenured positions are held by native
26 Hawaiians;

27
28 and
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30 WHEREAS, the academic stress of earning a college degree is
31 drastically increased for many native Hawaiian students by high
32 levels of economic stress; and
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34 WHEREAS, statistically, native Hawaiians attending the
35 University of Hawaii are, on average, far more affected by
36 negative economic indicators than students from other ethnic
37 groups, and for example, native Hawaiian students who do
38 complete their degrees take longer to do so than students of
39 other ethnic groups and many native Hawaiian students must work
40 full- or part-time jobs while attempting to complete their
41 college degrees. This slower-than-average completion rate is



1 due primarily to the consequences of native Hawaiians' poor
2 access to available socio-economic resources, combined with
3 their ongoing need to produce income for themselves and their
4 families and Hawaii's high cost of living; and
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6 WHEREAS, as more native Hawaiians are able to earn college
7 degrees, more native Hawaiians can pursue the highest levels of
8 academic and professional achievement; now, therefore,
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10 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
11 Twenty-sixth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
12 of 2011, that the State of Hawaii is urged to create and fund a
13 state grant program that would award aid to all native Hawaiian
14 and Hawaiian students with financial need, as determined by
15 federal financial aid guidelines, enrolled at any of the
16 University of Hawaii System's ten campuses; and
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18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that to qualify for such financial
19 aid, the student must possess a card issued by the Office of
20 Hawaiian Affairs identifying the student as a person included in
21 the Hawaiian registry under section 10-19, Hawaii Revised
22 Statutes, which will constitute conclusive proof that the
23 student is native Hawaiian or Hawaiian; and
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25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
26 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, University of Hawaii
27 Board of Regents, President of the University of Hawaii, and
28 Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Office of Hawaiian
29 Affairs.

