SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII TO ESTABLISH A THREE-YEAR MORATORIUM ON ANY INCREASES OF RESIDENT TUITION.

WHEREAS, the Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii, by Executive Policy E6.201 adopted in March 2013, established tuition schedules for the academic years 2012-2013 through 2016-2017; and

WHEREAS, the University of Hawaii at Manoa is representative of the annual percentage tuition increases during the five-year period, with year-to-year increases of approximately 3.1 per cent in 2012-2013, 5.5 per cent in 2013-2014, and 7.5 per cent in each of the academic years 2014-2015, 2015-2016, and 2016-2017; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Regents plans to conduct a midschedule review of the tuition increases in 2014; and

WHEREAS, the Wall Street Journal reported that the University of Hawaii had one of the fastest rates of increase in tuition and fees among public universities in the United States over the past five years; and

WHEREAS, the average amount full-time students paid in tuition at the University of Hawaii last year, after grants and scholarships, rose 46.6 per cent, compared to the national average amount that students at public colleges across the nation paid, which rose a record 8.3 per cent; and

WHEREAS, the University of Hawaii's tuition and fees, before grants and scholarships, more than doubled during the past five-year period, from \$4,522 in 2006-2007, to \$9,404 in 2012-2013; and

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WHEREAS, such significant increases in resident tuition at the only public university system in the State can negatively impact the ability of local residents who want to attend college; and

WHEREAS, establishing a moratorium on resident tuition increases for the University of Hawaii system would enable more individuals in the State to enroll at a school within the University of Hawaii system and provide more affordable higher education for state residents; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-seventh Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2013, the House of Representatives concurring, that the Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii is urged to establish a three-year moratorium, effective on July 1, 2014, on any increases of resident tuition; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii is requested to submit a report to the Legislature of its findings and recommendations promptly upon the completion of its 2014 mid-schedule review of the tuition increases; and

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