

JAN 17 2014

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that section 304A-502,
2 Hawaii Revised Statutes, authorizes the board of regents of the
3 University of Hawaii to grant, modify, or suspend tuition
4 waivers.

5 The legislature further finds that the board of regents,
6 through its internal policies, grants waivers of the nonresident
7 tuition differential to the following individuals:

- 8 (1) East-West center student grantees pursuing
9 baccalaureate or advanced degrees;
- 10 (2) United States military personnel stationed in Hawaii
11 on active duty, and their authorized dependents during
12 the period that the personnel are stationed in Hawaii;
- 13 (3) Members of the Hawaii national guard and the Hawaii
14 reserves;
- 15 (4) Native Hawaiians whose domicile is outside of Hawaii;
16 and
- 17 (5) Employees of the University of Hawaii, their spouses,
18 and their dependents.



1 The board of regents' current policies do not offer a
2 waiver of the nonresident tuition differential to veterans who
3 are honorably discharged from active duty within the State of
4 Hawaii or for those veterans who want to come to the State to
5 attend the University of Hawaii.

6 Since the Post 9/11 Veterans Education Assistance Act of
7 2008 went into effect, more than 1,500,000 veterans have taken
8 advantage of its benefits to cover the costs of a college
9 education.

10 The legislature finds that a number of states currently
11 have laws that waive certain residency requirements to allow
12 veterans to attend state universities in states other than their
13 state of residency upon separating from the military.

14 The legislature further finds that allowing a waiver of the
15 nonresident tuition differential to veterans will expand
16 veterans' educational opportunities by allowing them to attend
17 college within the University of Hawaii system at the resident
18 tuition rate.

19 The purpose of this Act is to require the board or regents
20 to waive the nonresident tuition and fee differential for
21 veterans of the United States armed forces, who were honorably
22 discharged, regardless of their actual state of residence.



1 SECTION 2. Section 304A-502, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended to read as follows:

3 "~~§~~304A-502~~§~~ Power of regents to grant tuition

4 **waivers.** (a) The board of regents, or its designated
5 representatives, is authorized to grant, modify, or suspend
6 tuition waivers.

7 (b) The board may:

- 8 (1) Waive entirely or reduce the tuition fee or any of the
9 other fees for graduate teaching and research
10 assistants;
- 11 (2) Enter into agreements with government and university
12 officials of any other state or foreign country to
13 provide for reciprocal waiver of the nonresident
14 tuition and fee differential;
- 15 (3) Waive the nonresident tuition and fee differential for
16 selected students from Pacific and Asian jurisdictions
17 when their presence would be beneficial to the
18 university or the State;
- 19 (4) Waive entirely or reduce the tuition fee or any of the
20 other fees for students, resident or nonresident; and



1 (5) Waive the nonresident tuition and fee differential for
2 members in good standing of the following military
3 units, regardless of their actual state of residence:

4 (A) The Hawaii national guard; and

5 (B) The federal reserve components of the United
6 States Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, and
7 Coast Guard who attend drills with units located
8 within the State.

9 (c) Beginning with the 2014-2015 academic year, the board
10 shall waive the nonresident tuition and fee differential for
11 veterans of the United States armed forces, who were honorably
12 discharged, regardless of their actual state of residence, and
13 who use G.I. education benefits. As used in this subsection,
14 "G.I. education benefits" means any education benefit
15 administered by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs
16 that is designed to assist eligible veterans of the United
17 States armed forces cover the costs associated with enrollment
18 as a student.

19 (d) The board shall determine the percentage of allowable
20 tuition and fee waivers for financial need and other university
21 priorities. These tuition waivers and waivers of the



S.B. NO. 2304

1 nonresident tuition and fee differential shall be awarded in
2 accordance with guidelines established by the board."

3 SECTION 3. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
4 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

5 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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S.B. NO. 2304

Report Title:

University of Hawaii System; Veterans; Residency; Nonresident Tuition and Fee Differential Waiver

Description:

Requires the board of regents of the University of Hawaii to waive the nonresident tuition and fee differential for veterans of the United States armed forces, who were honorably discharged.

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