

MAR 07 2014

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I TO
REVERSE THE POLICY ON TUITION RATES FOR PACIFIC ISLANDER
STUDENTS.

1 WHEREAS, there are no baccalaureate degree-granting
2 institutions among the many Pacific Island nations, which
3 include American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana
4 Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the
5 Marshall Islands, or the Republic of Palau, which means that
6 most students from these jurisdictions (collectively referred to
7 as Pacific Islander students) attend the University of Hawai'i;
8 and
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10 WHEREAS, the University of Hawai'i previously granted
11 Pacific Islander students a lower tuition rate than the Western
12 Undergraduate Exchange tuition rate, which is set by the Western
13 Interstate Commission for Higher Education, that was set by the
14 Board of Regents in 2006; and
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16 WHEREAS, charging Pacific Islander students from Pacific
17 Island nations and territories the Western Undergraduate
18 Exchange tuition rate severely undermines their access to higher
19 education through the University of Hawai'i system; and
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21 WHEREAS, Pacific Islander students are predominantly
22 economically disadvantaged and are dependent on the University
23 of Hawai'i System for advanced training and higher education; and
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25 WHEREAS, there has historically been a close cultural
26 relationship between the University of Hawai'i and the Pacific
27 Islands since many Pacific Islanders who led their respective
28 nations to self-government and independence in the post-war
29 period were trained at the University of Hawai'i; and
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31 WHEREAS, the revised Compacts of Free Association between
32 the United States and the three freely associated Micronesian



1 governments have severely limited students' eligibility for
2 federal aid; and

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4 WHEREAS, most students are no longer eligible for Work-
5 Study and Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants;
6 and

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8 WHEREAS, compounding this problem have been the increases
9 in tuition and the declining value of federally funded PELL
10 grants, which is the chief source of educational assistance for
11 students; and

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13 WHEREAS, as a result of the decision to raise tuition for
14 Pacific Islander students:

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16 (1) The drop-out rate has increased; and

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18 (2) Many of those students who have managed to remain in
19 school find it necessary to work two or three part-
20 time jobs, which often leads to missed classes and
21 poor academic performance; and


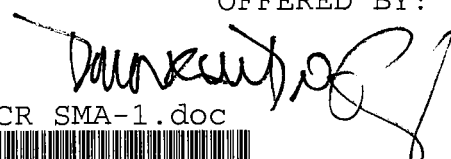
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23 WHEREAS, a university with an avowed commitment to the
24 Pacific Islands region and that aspires to be the training hub
25 of Oceania should not adopt policies that prevent Pacific
26 Islander students from accessing its educational services; now,
27 therefore,

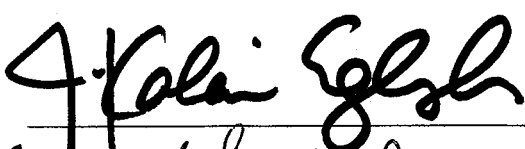
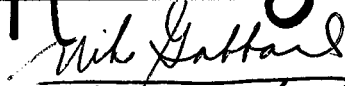

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29 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-seventh
30 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2014, the
31 House of Representatives concurring, that the Board of Regents
32 of the University of Hawai'i is requested to reverse the policy
33 on tuition rates for Pacific Islander students; and

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35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
36 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the
37 Board of Regents of the University of Hawai'i and President of
38 the University of Hawai'i System.

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OFFERED BY:



Ronald de B...

James M. Sloan

Ronan P...

A stylized handwritten signature or set of initials, possibly 'R' or 'S', written in black ink.