

FEB 03 2014

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII TO
CONDUCT A STUDY OF THE FEASIBILITY OF IMPLEMENTING A PLAN
THAT WILL ALLOW STUDENTS TO PAY A FIXED PERCENTAGE OF THEIR
INCOME FOR A SET NUMBER OF YEARS AFTER GRADUATION RATHER
THAN PAY TUITION WHILE ATTENDING SCHOOL.

1 WHEREAS, in the past three decades, college tuition has
2 consistently increased much faster than inflation and incomes;
3 and
4

5 WHEREAS, about two-thirds of college degree recipients
6 borrow money to attend college; and
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8 WHEREAS, the average student loan debt of a student
9 graduating from college in 2013 was \$35,200; and
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11 WHEREAS, many of these students will spend decades paying
12 off their student loan debt; and
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14 WHEREAS, students who are not able to secure well-paying
15 jobs after graduation often struggle to pay back their student
16 loan debt; and
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18 WHEREAS, in 2013, the Oregon legislature approved the "Pay
19 it Forward, Pay it Back" pilot project, which allows students to
20 attend community colleges and public universities in Oregon for
21 free and to repay the state with a percentage of their incomes
22 after graduation; and
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24 WHEREAS, at least one private university and one other
25 state have proposed programs similar to the "Pay it Forward, Pay
26 it Back" pilot program; and
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28 WHEREAS, this novel approach to funding higher education
29 may help make college more affordable for Hawaii's students;
30 now, therefore,



S.C.R. NO. 33

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 2 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-seventh
 3 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2014, the
 4 House of Representatives concurring, that the Board of Regents
 5 of the University of Hawaii is requested to conduct a study of
 6 the feasibility of implementing a plan that will allow students
 7 to pay a fixed percentage of their income for a set number of
 8 years after graduation rather than pay tuition while attending
 9 school; and

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 11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study include an analysis
 12 of:


- 13
 14 (1) The "Pay It Forward, Pay It Back" pilot plan under
 15 consideration by the Higher Education Coordinating
 16 Commission in Oregon;
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 18 (2) The "Western Tuition Promise" offered by Western
 19 Oregon University; and
 20
 21 (3) The "Finish in Four" program proposed in Florida; and
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23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Regents of the
 24 University of Hawaii is requested to report its findings and
 25 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the
 26 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
 27 the Regular Session of 2015; and

28
 29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
 30 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the
 31 Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii.
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OFFERED BY: Shiranne Chun Oakland
~~Don A.C. ...~~
 Hanna Tui
 Rosalyn H. ...
 Rock P.

S.C.R. NO. 33


Michelle Kebani
M. Kebani

