

MAR 07 2014

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## SENATE 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  
33 governments have severely limited students' eligibility for  
34 federal aid; and



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

OFFERED BY:

*[Handwritten signatures]*  
J. Keli'ia'i  
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