
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 the University of
2 Hawaii provides lower tuition rates for Hawaii residents as a
3 mean of encouraging the State's best students to remain in the
4 State and to provide assistance to those who may not be
5 otherwise financially able to pursue higher education. The
6 legislature also finds that it is a matter of statewide concern
7 that some students who receive the resident tuition rate do not
8 complete their undergraduate degrees in a reasonable time, thus
9 taking up space in courses that other students may need to
10 timely complete their degrees. The legislature believes that
11 students receiving resident tuition rates should be encouraged
12 to complete their degrees in a timely manner.

13 The purpose of this Act is to limit the number of credit
14 hours for which a student may receive resident tuition rates.

15 SECTION 2. Section 304A-402, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
16 amended to read as follows:



1 " ~~[+]~~ §304A-402 ~~[+]~~ Residence for tuition purposes; basic
2 rule. (a) The board of regents shall adopt the necessary rules
3 defining residence for tuition purposes herein; provided that
4 the basic rule shall be that a student shall qualify for the
5 resident tuition fee only if the following criteria are met:

6 (1) The adult student, or in the case of a minor student,
7 the student's parents or guardians, has or have been a
8 bona fide resident of this State for at least twelve
9 consecutive months next preceding the student's first
10 day of officially scheduled instruction for any
11 semester or term in which the student is enrolling at
12 the particular college or campus; and

13 (2) The adult or minor student has not been claimed as a
14 dependent for tax purposes for at least twelve months
15 next preceding the student's first day of officially
16 scheduled instruction for any semester or term in
17 which the student is enrolling at the particular
18 college or campus by the student's parents or
19 guardians who are nonresidents of the State; provided
20 that this provision shall not apply in cases where the
21 parent claiming the student as a dependent is entitled

H.B. NO. 1799

1 to do so under a child support order or agreement
2 issued or entered into in conjunction with a divorce
3 proceeding or legal separation agreement and the other
4 parent and the student meet the criteria set forth in
5 paragraph (1).

6 (b) A student pursuing an undergraduate degree shall only
7 qualify to receive resident tuition fees for up to one hundred
8 forty credit hours; provided that the board of regents may grant
9 an exemption to a student if it is established that a course
10 required for the student to graduate is or has been unavailable
11 while the student has been in the University of Hawaii system."

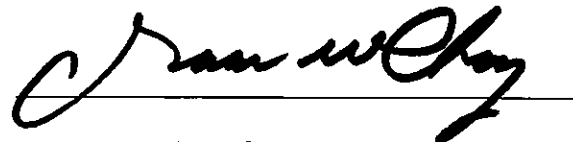
12 SECTION 3. This Act does not affect rights and duties that
13 matured, penalties that were incurred, and proceedings that were
14 begun before its effective date.

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

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

18

INTRODUCED BY:



JAN 22 2016



H.B. NO. 1799

Report Title:

University of Hawaii; Tuition; Residents; Limitation; Credit Hours

Description:

Provides that a student in the University of Hawaii system pursuing an undergraduate degree may only be eligible for resident tuition fees for up to one hundred forty credit hours.

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.



To: House Committee on Higher Education
Representative Isaac Choy, Chair
Representative Linda Ichiyama, Vice Chair

Date: Thursday, February 4, 2016

Time: 2:00 PM

Place: Conference Room 309

Re: Opposition of HB 1799 Relating to the University of Hawai'i

My name is Jessica Chen and I am an undergraduate student at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa. I am writing in strong opposition of HB 1799, which limits the amount of credits an in-state student can have prior to paying for out-of-state tuition.

As a student pursuing two degrees, I view this bill as completely unreasonable and discriminatory. Students pursuing two degrees have to take additional credits which usually surmounts to over 140 total credits. In addition, students who change majors after the second semester in college would end up with total credits surpassing 140. The bill discriminates against students who 1) are undecided in their career path, 2) switch their majors, and 3) pursue multiple degrees or minors.

While I agree with the propositions to have students graduate in a timely manner as well as reduce the bottleneck effect on the university's classes, the approach of this bill would not only hinder the graduation rate of the students, but force them into difficult situations.

I strongly oppose HB 1799 due to its discriminatory approach which ultimately hinders students from pursuing their degrees.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica Chen
jwchen@hawaii.edu
808-541-7234

To: House Committee on Higher Education
Representative Isaac Choy, Chair
Representative Linda Ichiyama, Vice Chair

Date: Thursday, February 4, 2016
Time: 2:00 PM
Place: Conference Room 309

Re: Opposition of HB 1799 Relating to the University of Hawai'i

My name is Maggie Hinshaw and I am an undergraduate student at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. I am writing in opposition of HB 1799, which limits eligibility of resident tuition fees at 140 credit hours.

I have changed my original major and am planning to double major in Marketing and Management Information Systems. Because of this, I will be graduating late. Like many students attending UH I did not know exactly what I wanted to do with my life right away. By fining students who simply change their majors and/or pursue multiple degrees (which will increase the total amount of credit hours they need in order to graduate) the bill potentially discourages and/or prevents students from fulfilling their academic endeavors here at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa.

Students already face many challenges when seeking higher education. This bill, if passed, will only discourage students. Implementing this policy may also place an unmanageable financial burden on the most aspirational students, and that is why I strongly oppose HB 1799.

Respectfully submitted,

Maggie Hinshaw
maggieh@hawaii.edu

ichiyama2-Brandon

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 02, 2016 4:10 AM
To: HEDtestimony
Cc: starmer@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1799 on Feb 4, 2016 14:00PM*

HB1799

Submitted on: 2/2/2016

Testimony for HED on Feb 4, 2016 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kaelan	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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To: House Committee on Higher Education
Representative Isaac Choy, Chair
Representative Linda Ichiyama, Vice Chair

Date: Thursday, February 4, 2016
Time: 2:00 PM
Place: Conference Room 309

Re: Opposition of HB 1799 Relating to the University of Hawai'i

My name is Todd Simeroth and I am an undergraduate student at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. I am writing in strong opposition of HB 1799, which limits eligibility of resident tuition fees at 140 credit hours.

As Chair Choy said during Tuesday's Committee on Higher Education hearing, there is indeed a national crisis surrounding the growing amount of student debt. Many students at our university are already hard-pressed to meet their living expenses, which are generally considered to be the highest in the nation.

This bill targets the highest-achieving students in a manner which discourages and may in some cases prevent them from fulfilling their academic endeavors. Many of our students pursue multiple degrees, which by nature increases the total amount of credit hours that they must complete to graduate. When students approach graduation, they often have accrued a large amount of debt, and significantly adding to this debt discourages completion of the university's academic requirements.

Implementing this policy will place an unmanageable financial burden on the most aspirational students, and that is why I strongly oppose HB 1799.

Respectfully submitted,

Todd Simeroth
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808.366.5469

To: House Committee on Higher Education
Representative Isaac Choy, Chair
Representative Linda Ichiyama, Vice Chair

Date: Thursday, February 4, 2016
Time: 2:00 PM
Place: Conference Room 309

Re: Opposition of HB 1799 Relating to the University of Hawai'i

My name is Grant Takara and I am an undergraduate student at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. I am writing in strong opposition of HB 1799, which limits eligibility of resident tuition fees at 140 credit hours.

There are many reasons why this bill would be detrimental to the State of Hawaii.

First of all, this would dramatically increase the cost for students who wish to pursue more than one degree or even a degree and a minor.

Second of all, the passage of this bill would also discourage the local population from seeking continuing education, education that contributes to the innovation of Hawaii.

My third reason pertains personally to myself. I am currently a senior in mechanical engineering and have completed a business minor. By the time I graduate this spring I will have over 180 credits. While I will have a degree in engineering, the scope of the classes that I have taken spans economics, biology, chemistry, biochemistry, business, and art. The result of such an interdisciplinary background has enabled me to not only connect with individuals from various fields but also apply fresh new perspectives in the various projects that I participate in, projects ranging from biochemistry computing in search of optimizing the search for cancer drugs, to developing new manufacturing processes at the Hawaii Space Flight Laboratory, and starting small businesses that sell robotics kits to institutions around the world.

Should we wish to keep innovative and hardworking individuals within the State of Hawaii we need to reduce the barriers and resources that prevent them from reaching their greatest potential.

Implementing this policy will place an unmanageable financial burden on the most aspirational, ambitious, and innovative students, and that is why I strongly oppose HB 1799.

Respectfully submitted,

Grant Takara
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UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

LATE

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Higher Education
February 4, 2016 at 2:00 pm

By
Risa E. Dickson, Vice President for Academic Affairs
University of Hawai'i System

HB 1799 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Chair Choy, Vice Chair Ichiyama, and members of the committee:

House Bill 1799 proposes a revision to Section 304A-402 by limiting a student to a maximum of one hundred forty credit hours at the resident tuition rate, provided that the Board of Regents may grant an exemption to a student if it is established that a course required for student to graduate is or has been unavailable while the student has been in the University of Hawai'i system.

While we appreciate the legislature's intent to encourage timely graduation, the University of Hawai'i opposes the bill as currently written because it poses a number of negative consequences.

One unintended consequence is when a student gets within a semester of graduation and finds themselves at the 140 credit limit but is unable to graduate because they cannot afford the higher tuition. Residents will be forced to higher tuition rates and this may lead to students withdrawing without graduating. Or, some students' programs may lead them to take more than 140 credits. For instance, students who plan to sit for the CPA exam need 150 hours, and they may have reasons to take these as part of their undergraduate education. The University has concerns about legislatively limiting the eligibility for a resident tuition rate based on a maximum number of credits, such as 140 credits taken by a student.

Second, the statutory change proposed by this measure may disadvantage transfer students from 2-year community colleges to a 4-year UH campus. The UH community colleges provide an entry point and opportunity to higher education access for much of Hawai'i's population, particularly those groups with historically low college-going rates. One of the University's strategic directions, to increase college participation and the number of degrees earned by students, specifically addresses Native Hawaiians, low-income students, and those from underserved regions and population groups. Preparing a diversity of students for success in the workforce and in their communities is critical for our State's economy and well-being.

UH points out that one unintended consequence of HB 1799 would be to penalize those very students who start their education at a UH or out of state community college, and then

transfer in to a UH campus to complete a bachelor's degree, a situation that may result in graduating with more than 140 credits.

Other examples of possible unintended consequences on students:

- a) Non-traditional students who left college in the past to raise families, get jobs, take care of kūpuna, and then return to complete their UH education at a later stage in life may find that their educational goals have changed and they need to take more credits to achieve their degree objective.
- b) A student who chooses to pursue a double major and/or earn a certificate or declare a minor as well as a major course of study toward a bachelor's degree, may be hampered by the consequences of HB1799;
- c) A student who switches majors and graduates with more than 140 credits;
- d) A student trying to boost their GPA (grade-point average) in order to qualify for admission to a program of their choice may take more than 140 credits;
- e) A student trying to boost their GPA to meet a graduation requirement may also be disadvantaged by the consequences of HB1799;
- f) Veterans who transfer in credits from other institutions.

In addition, HB 1799 may inhibit fresh approaches that support and encourage students to enroll in college and graduate. *Early College*, for example, awards credits upon high school graduation to students who earn credits before entering college. *Prior Learning Assessment (PLA)* may provide students college credit by identifying and documenting college level learning that has been acquired through life experiences such as military, and/or work experience, training, or professional certification.

The University also points out that as part of the effort to promote timely graduation for more students, the UH STAR/GPS system is being further developed as an increasingly robust tool to help students graduate on time. Campuses have created pathways for each of their programs to identify what classes and in what sequence students should take to graduate on time.

With the support of the legislature, the enhanced registration by STAR helps students as they register to make more informed choices and avoid inadvertent selection of classes that do not meet their program requirements. The system will also help campuses better schedule courses that will be needed by students. Other future initiatives such as a complete restructuring of remedial education will also support success and reduce credits taken by students. Our nationally acclaimed Fifteen-to-Finish program also encourages students to take the courses they need and graduate on time; a program that has a record of success over a number of years.

The University very much appreciates the legislature's support in enhancing the STAR/GPS system and recognizing its significance for students and the institution for on-time graduation.

The approach taken by HB1799, however, raises concerns, as cited above, that there will be negative impact or unintended consequences for students, including those students we aim to serve by increasing access and opportunity through innovative support mechanisms.

Thank you very much for this opportunity to testify.