

JAN 25 2017

---

---

# A BILL FOR AN ACT

MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII  
INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC PROGRAM.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the intercollegiate  
2 athletics programs of the University of Hawaii are unique when  
3 compared to athletic programs at other institutions. The  
4 legislature further finds that the community places a high value  
5 on and takes much pride in the intercollegiate athletics program  
6 of the University of Hawaii. All teams and individuals  
7 competing for the University of Hawaii have dedicated fans who  
8 enjoy the efforts of the athletes and entertainment of sports  
9 contests. In contemporary society, intercollegiate athletics  
10 receive much publicity and media coverage, and the participation  
11 of the University of Hawaii in various sports increases the  
12 exposure of people on the continental United States and in  
13 foreign countries to the State of Hawaii. University of Hawaii  
14 athletes are also "Ambassadors of Aloha" when they travel out-  
15 of-state, and athletes have an opportunity to uniquely and  
16 authentically represent Hawaii. University of Hawaii games and



1 events that are televised nationally and internationally are  
2 also important marketing tools to attract visitors to the State  
3 and showcase a premier higher education institution. The  
4 family, friends, and supporters of visiting schools often  
5 accompany the teams and stay for an extended time after the  
6 games.

7 The costs for University of Hawaii at Manoa student-  
8 athletes to travel to the continental United States are high  
9 because of the distance traveled. Moreover, the university must  
10 subsidize the travel expenses of some visiting teams that come  
11 to Hawaii. Lastly, the scholarship costs are higher at the  
12 University of Hawaii at Manoa when compared to comparable  
13 schools because its athletic program has a higher percentage of  
14 nonresident student-athletes. In total, the athletics costs of  
15 the University of Hawaii at Manoa are \$5,200,000 higher than its  
16 peer institutions. As a result, rather than competing in  
17 collegiate athletics on a level playing field with its peers,  
18 University of Hawaii at Manoa athletics is at a competitive  
19 disadvantage because a significant portion of its budget must be  
20 used to offset costs that other athletic programs do not have.  
21 The University of Hawaii at Manoa's athletic program should not



1 be put at a competitive disadvantage in relation to the  
2 institutions that it competes against when representing the  
3 State of Hawaii.

4       Athletics at the University of Hawaii at Hilo is a source  
5 of great pride to the community of Hilo and the island of  
6 Hawaii. There is a vibrant history of connection between the  
7 community and the university's "Vulcan" athletics. Not only is  
8 Vulcan athletics a source of community activity, it is also a  
9 key component of the overall student life experience for the  
10 diverse campus student-body in Hilo. Athletics at the  
11 University of Hawaii at Hilo is a significant economic driver to  
12 the island of Hawaii's economy by bringing in visiting teams  
13 that translates into thousands of team members and their  
14 families to the island each year alone. Such activity  
15 positively benefits the local hotels, restaurants, airlines, car  
16 rental agencies, and other small businesses. University of  
17 Hawaii at Hilo athletics produces great community and economic  
18 benefits to the island of Hawaii, neighbor island communities,  
19 and the State of Hawaii.

20       The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds for the  
21 intercollegiate athletic program of the University of Hawaii to



1 offset higher costs unique to the university's athletic program  
2 when compared to its peer institutions.

3 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general  
4 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$3,000,000 or so much  
5 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2017-2018 and the  
6 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year  
7 2018-2019 for the intercollegiate athletic program of the  
8 University of Hawaii.

9 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the University  
10 of Hawaii for the purposes of this Act.

11 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2017.

12

INTRODUCED BY:

*Mike Gabbard*

*Gerrine Q. Brown*

*BT*

*AC Kaul-Allen*

*[Signature]*

*[Signature]*

*[Signature]*

*Clarence K. Nishihara*

*Simon Merenda K.*

*[Signature]*



# S.B. NO. 1251

**Report Title:**

Funding for the University of Hawaii Intercollegiate Athletic Program; Appropriations

**Description:**

Appropriates funds for the University of Hawaii Intercollegiate Athletic Program.

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

