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# SENATE RESOLUTION

URGING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII TO EXAMINE THE CURRENT STATUS OF  
THE UNIVERSITY'S ONLINE PROGRAMS WITH A VIEW TOWARD  
INCREASING ITS ONLINE ACCREDITED COURSES AND DEGREE  
PROGRAMS.

1           WHEREAS, online courses and degree programs are  
2 increasingly important to ensure access to education for many  
3 students; and

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5           WHEREAS, the University of Hawaii offers only seventeen  
6 Bachelor's degrees, fourteen Master's degrees, and several  
7 certificates via online courses; and

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9           WHEREAS, the geography of Hawaii makes online and distance  
10 education options especially valuable for out-of-state and  
11 international students; and

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13           WHEREAS, students on the neighbor islands are in particular  
14 need of affordable, high quality distance education options; and

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16           WHEREAS, the availability of online programs for students  
17 residing on Oahu can have a positive impact on reducing traffic  
18 congestion; and

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20           WHEREAS, the University of Hawaii is well situated to offer  
21 unique and valuable perspectives to local and out-of-state  
22 students in a variety of important subjects, including  
23 oceanography, renewable energy, and climate change; and

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25           WHEREAS, Penn State World Campus is the online campus of  
26 The Pennsylvania State University and offers online courses for  
27 over one hundred twenty accredited graduate degrees,  
28 undergraduate degrees, certificates, and minors; and

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30           WHEREAS, the University of Hawaii should increase its  
31 online accredited programs; now, therefore,  
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1 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-ninth  
2 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2017,  
3 that the University of Hawaii is urged to examine the current  
4 status of the University's online programs with a view toward  
5 increasing its online accredited courses and degree programs;  
6 and  
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8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the University of Hawaii  
9 formulate a plan to increase cooperation among its campuses to  
10 provide a greater number of online courses and program  
11 offerings; and  
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13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the University of Hawaii  
14 examine any existing resistance its faculty may have to its  
15 online programs and provide solutions for those issues  
16 accordingly; and  
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18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the University of Hawaii  
19 examine whether a reduced tuition rate for students of online  
20 courses and programs would help incentivize potential students  
21 to pursue higher education; and  
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23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the University of Hawaii report  
24 its findings and recommendations to the Legislature no later  
25 than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session  
26 of 2018; and  
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28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
29 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of  
30 Regents of the University of Hawaii, President of the University  
31 of Hawaii, and Executive Director of the University of Hawaii  
32 Professional Assembly.

