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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO SENIOR CITIZENS.

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

1       SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the promotion of  
2       mental health for our kupuna, or senior citizens, is an  
3       important part of overall public health. The legislature  
4       further finds that the United States Center for Disease Control  
5       and the Alzheimer's Association have stated that Alzheimer's  
6       disease and other forms of dementia, which disproportionately  
7       impact senior citizens, have become a global public health  
8       crisis. According to the Alzheimer's Association, there were an  
9       estimated twenty-seven thousand people in the State of Hawaii  
10      aged sixty-five years and older living with Alzheimer's in 2017,  
11      a figure expected to grow to thirty-five thousand by 2025.

12      The legislature additionally finds that the senior citizen  
13      population is experiencing dramatic growth, which will  
14      exacerbate this public health crisis. The number of Americans  
15      sixty-five years and older will grow from 40,300,000 in 2010 to  
16      a projected 74,100,000 in 2030, according to the Federal  
17      Interagency Forum on Aging-Related Statistics' 2016 report.



1 Similarly, the number of Hawaii residents sixty years and older  
2 will grow from 277,400 in 2010 to a projected 448,710 in 2030,  
3 as stated in the 2011-15 Hawaii State Plan on Aging.

4 While there is no cure for Alzheimer's, several studies and  
5 publications, including Jean Carper's book, "100 Simple Things  
6 You Can Do to Prevent Alzheimer's and Age Related Memory Loss",  
7 provide evidence that continuing education may delay the onset  
8 of Alzheimer's symptoms. The legislature acknowledges that  
9 there are several existing programs aimed at promoting mental  
10 health for Hawaii's senior citizens through formal education.  
11 The University of Hawai'i at Manoa's Senior Citizen Visitor  
12 Program, the Na Kupuna Program, allows approximately three  
13 hundred Hawai'i senior citizens to attend college courses free of  
14 charge without receiving university credit. These programs  
15 promote lifelong learning for senior citizens while adding  
16 senior citizen wisdom and experience to the classroom setting.

17 Therefore, the purpose of this Act is to establish a five-  
18 year pilot program at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo that  
19 allows senior citizens to attend college classes free of charge  
20 for no credit and allows senior citizens to receive a reduced  
21 tuition for college classes they enroll in for credit.



1       SECTION 2. The University of Hawai'i shall establish a  
2 five-year senior citizen higher education access pilot program  
3 at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo. The pilot program shall:

- 4       (1) Allow individuals aged sixty years or older to attend  
5 college classes free of tuition and for no credit;  
6       (2) Reduce applicable tuition cost by       per cent for  
7 individuals aged sixty years or older enrolled in  
8 college classes for credit; and  
9       (3) Begin in the fall of 2019.

10       SECTION 3. The University of Hawai'i shall submit a written  
11 report on the progress of the senior citizen higher education  
12 access pilot program, including any proposed legislation, to the  
13 legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of  
14 the regular session of 2024. The report shall address but shall  
15 not be limited to:

- 16       (1) The number of pilot program participants who attended  
17 college classes for no credit per semester;  
18       (2) The number of pilot program participants enrolled in  
19 college classes for credit per semester;  
20       (3) The amount of foregone tuition revenue per semester;  
21 and



1           (4)   The number of degrees attained in part or in whole  
2                   because of the pilot program.

3           SECTION 4.   This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2018, and  
4 shall be repealed on June 30, 2024.

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**Report Title:**

Higher Education; Senior Citizens; Pilot Program

**Description:**

Establishes a senior citizen higher education access pilot program at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo. Requires a report to the Legislature before the Regular Session of 2024. Repeals June 30, 2024. (SD1)

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

