
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII TO STUDY THE FEASIBILITY OF
ADOPTING AN OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INITIATIVE.

1 WHEREAS, the cost of textbooks has risen four times faster
2 than the rate of inflation over the last decade; and
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4 WHEREAS, according to the College Board, the average
5 college student now spends more than \$1,200 on books and
6 materials each year, which is a large sum for students whose
7 budgets are already stretched thin from tuition, fees, and other
8 educational expenses; and
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10 WHEREAS, the high price of textbooks has caused sixty-five
11 percent of students to skip buying required textbooks at some
12 point in their college career; and
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14 WHEREAS, open educational resources are online or printed
15 materials, including textbooks and other learning content, that
16 are free or openly licensed; and
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18 WHEREAS, a growing number of higher education institutions
19 are turning to open educational resources as a more affordable
20 alternative to traditional textbooks; and
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22 WHEREAS, these open educational resources are peer reviewed
23 like traditional textbooks and may include sample problems and
24 quizzes like those that publishers often bundle with
25 traditional, printed textbooks; and
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27 WHEREAS, most significantly, because of their open nature,
28 these materials are much more affordable than traditional
29 textbooks and can therefore make a higher education more
30 accessible; and
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1 WHEREAS, students at institutions that have adopted open
2 educational resources have experienced a dramatic decrease in
3 the cost of textbooks; and
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5 WHEREAS, for example, students enrolled at a community
6 college in Massachusetts that adopted open educational resources
7 in three of its six required general education courses spent as
8 little as \$31 per course on course materials, compared to the
9 national average of \$153 per course; and
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11 WHEREAS, the North Dakota University System used a \$110,000
12 appropriation from its legislature to create an open educational
13 resources initiative, funding system-wide faculty training and
14 institution-level grants; and
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16 WHEREAS, as a result of the initiative, six hundred fifty
17 courses across the system now exclusively use open educational
18 resources, saving the fifteen thousand students who have
19 enrolled in the courses between \$1,100,000 and \$2,400,000 in
20 textbook costs over two years, equivalent to at least ten times
21 the amount of the legislature's initial investment in the
22 program; and
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24 WHEREAS, given the positive results that other
25 jurisdictions have experienced adopting open educational
26 resources, the State should study whether an open educational
27 resources initiative would be successful within the University
28 of Hawaii system; now, therefore,
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30 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
31 Thirtieth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of
32 2019, that the University of Hawaii is requested to conduct a
33 study on the feasibility of adopting an open educational
34 resources initiative, which may include:
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- 36 (1) Open educational resources training, including
37 training for faculty; and
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- 39 (2) Individual grants for faculty to incentivize the use
40 of open educational resources in their courses; and
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study is requested to
2 include:

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- 4 (1) A strategic plan to increase the use of open
- 5 educational resources;
- 6
- 7 (2) The recommended parameters of an open educational
- 8 resources initiative at the University of Hawaii;
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- 10 (3) The estimated cost to implement the initiative; and
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- 12 (4) The projected savings to students as a result of the
- 13 initiative, if any; and
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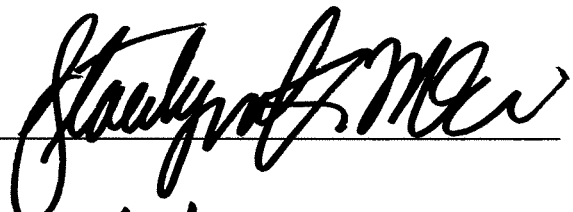

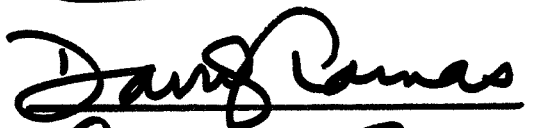


15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the University of Hawaii is
16 requested to submit a report of its findings and
17 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the
18 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
19 the Regular Session of 2020; and

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21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
22 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of
23 Regents of the University of Hawaii and President of the
24 University of Hawaii.

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OFFERED BY:

MAR 07 2019

