



**TESTIMONY OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE, 2022**

ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

H.B. NO. 1488, H.D. 1, RELATING TO RESIDENCE FOR TUITION PURPOSES.

BEFORE THE:

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

DATE: Friday, February 25, 2022 **TIME:** 12:30 p.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 308, Via Videoconference

TESTIFIER(S): Holly T. Shikada, Attorney General, or
Lori N. Tanigawa, Deputy Attorney General

Chair Luke and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Attorney General provides the following comments.

The purpose of the bill is to simplify the residency determination for the State's high school students and recent graduates to enroll in postsecondary education and training at the University of Hawai'i by considering high school seniors and recent high school graduates, including those who choose to return from out of state and pursue higher education in Hawai'i, as residents under certain conditions.

Section 6 of article X of the Hawai'i State Constitution gives the Board of Regents of the University of Hawai'i "exclusive jurisdiction over the internal structure, management, and operation of the university." Section 6 further provides: "[t]his section shall not limit the power of the legislature to enact laws of statewide concern. The legislature shall have the exclusive jurisdiction to identify laws of statewide concern." If the Committee decides to pass this bill, we recommend an amendment that adds a statement identifying this bill as a law of statewide concern.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments.



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

Date: 02/25/2022

Time: 12:30 PM

Location: 308 Via Videoconference

Committee: House Finance

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Interim Superintendent Keith Hayashi
Hawaii State Department of Education

Title of Bill: HB 1488, HD1 RELATING TO RESIDENCE FOR TUITION PURPOSES.

Purpose of Bill: Requires the tuition residency rules for the University of Hawaii to grant the resident tuition fee for enrollment at any University of Hawaii campus, including any community college, to individuals who have obtained a Hawaii high school diploma or equivalent credential and are working toward an undergraduate degree, under certain conditions. Effective 7/1/2050. (HD1)

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) supports HB 1488, HD1.

Simplifying the residency determination for admission into the University of Hawaii (UH) system will positively impact students who wish to pursue higher education within the UH system and reduce barriers students may face when applying to UH. Further, extending the resident tuition fee at any UH campus to individuals who earn a Hawaii high school diploma or equivalent credential, including those who initially enroll in an out-of-state institution of higher education but later return to Hawaii to complete their undergraduate studies, increases access to postsecondary education in-state.

Increasing access to postsecondary education for all students is in alignment with a larger collaborative effort in workforce development, as a significant number of jobs, particularly those affording a living wage, require postsecondary credentials.

The Department defers to the University of Hawaii on the implementation of these

changes.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this measure.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Finance
Friday, February 25, 2022, at 12:30 p.m.

By
Hae K. Okimoto, Associate President for Student Affairs
University of Hawai'i System

HB 1488 HD1 – RELATING TO RESIDENCE FOR TUITION PURPOSES

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Yamashita, and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill (HB) 1488 HD1 relating to residence for tuition purposes. The University of Hawai'i (UH) strongly supports the bill.

HB 1488 HD1 would recognize graduates of Hawai'i high schools or high school equivalency programs as residents for the purpose of in-state tuition at the UH. HB 1488 HD1 would recognize local graduates as residents for in-state tuition at UH for up to eight years following high school graduation.

UH believes that simplifying the determination of residency would reduce barriers to local students enrolling at UH to pursue additional education and training. In addition, the bill simplifies the residency determination for high school student and recent graduates who are homeless and/or have complex family circumstances.

Hawai'i's "college going rate" of high school graduates declined during the pandemic, dropping from 55% enrolling immediately after high school graduation to 50%. The decline in college going rates to UH disproportionately affected low income, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander graduates, and college going to community colleges dropped nearly 25% from Class of 2019 to Class of 2021. This may be attributed to the added uncertainties that the current health pandemic has created in the lives of our students. Recognizing Hawai'i's high school graduates as Hawai'i residents enrolling at UH communicates the value that the state places on investing in graduates' continuing their education and training and streamlines the process of admission to UH.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this measure.

HB-1488-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2022 11:21:27 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2022 12:30:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Remote Testimony Requested |
|---------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| PIPE | Hawaii Department of Education | Support | Yes |

Comments:

Support



Kamehameha Schools®

House Committee on Finance

Time: 12:30 p.m.

Date: February 25, 2022

Where: Conference Room 308

TESTIMONY

By Dr. Wai‘ale‘ale Sarsona
Kamehameha Schools

RE: HB 1488, HD1, Relating to Residence for Tuition Purposes

E ka Luna Ho‘omaluku, ka Hope Luna Ho‘omaluku Yamashita, a me nā lālā o ke Kōmike Waiwai o ka Hale o nā Lunamaka‘āinana, aloha kākou! My name is Dr. Wai‘ale‘ale Sarsona, Vice President of Hi‘ialo at Kamehameha Schools.

Kamehameha Schools **supports** HB 1488, HD1, which requires the tuition residency rules for the University of Hawai‘i to grant the resident tuition fee for enrollment at any University of Hawai‘i campus, including any community college, to individuals who have obtained a Hawai‘i high school diploma or equivalent credential and are working toward an undergraduate degree, under certain conditions.

We firmly believe in the positive and transformational power of education and support the expansion of the criteria to qualify for resident tuition fees in the University of Hawai‘i system. The amendment of the University of Hawai‘i’s criteria to determine resident tuition eligibility will remove a significant barrier for many Hawai‘i students eager to enroll at the University of Hawai‘i to continue their educational journey and training.

Founded in 1887, Kamehameha Schools is an educational organization striving to restore our people through education and advance a thriving Lāhui where all Native Hawaiians are successful, grounded in traditional values, and leading in the local and global communities. We believe that community success is individual success, Hawaiian culture-based education leads to academic success and local leadership drives global leadership. Hānai i ke keiki; ola ka lāhui.

‘A‘ohe ‘ulu e loa‘a i ka pōkole o ka lou. There is no success without preparation. **Please advance this measure.**

HB-1488-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2022 8:57:23 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2022 12:30:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Remote Testimony Requested |
|----------------|--------------|--------------------|----------------------------|
| Cyd L. Hoffeld | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Yamashita, and Members of the Finance Committee,

My name is Cyd Hoffeld, a resident of Hawai'i Island, and I **strongly support HB1488 HD1** which requires the tuition residency rules for the University of Hawaii to grant the resident tuition fee for enrollment at any University of Hawaii campus, including any community college, to individuals who have obtained a Hawaii high school diploma or equivalent credential and are working toward an undergraduate degree, under certain conditions.

Education is the great equalizer and as the bill clearly states "These postsecondary options benefit graduates by preparing them for jobs and career pathways that typically pay higher wages, which enables them to achieve their educational and career goals and better afford Hawaii's high cost of living. Increased enrollment and completion of postsecondary education and training will also increase the State's human capital."

We need to keep our children and local adults well educated in order to build a stronger economy in Hawai'i. Each year, we lose too many local residents and graduating students due to the high cost of living and better educational opportunities on the continental US. I come from a family of seven children and half of my siblings went to college on the US continent, put their roots down, and raised their families there because they could not afford to live at home.

We need to build a qualified homegrown workforce in Hawai'i and one way to do this is by passing **HB1488 HD1**.

Mahalo!

HB-1488-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2022 10:58:35 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2022 12:30:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Remote Testimony Requested |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Michael Mentnech | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

The Dream Factory:

If you add up all the things that a college is, they can all be summed up as one thing, it is a Dream Factory. Education is the single most important asset anyone can have to make their dreams come true. Hawaii has done an excellent job in creating the University Of Hawaii system to insure that the coming generations can achieve their lifetime goals, and dreams. The term “ Brain Drain” has been bandied about for over fifty years that I know of. It was part of the discussion when Governor Burns was backing UH Hilo.

This bill welcomes back some of our brightest young people who have experienced the mainland, and want to come home and continue their education. With the popularity of ”Gap Years” where young people take a year of to experience different places , and assess their goals in life, UH tuition policy should adapt to this reality that exists today.

Being a Hawaii resident offers a fifty percent discount to resident students to make college affordable, which is a great investment in the future. Unfortunately there are a few loop holes in determining residency which need to be addressed. A child who was born and raised in Hawaii, perhaps has never even left the state can still be called a “non resident”. If an absent parent living on the mainland is claiming a child as a dependant on his taxes that child is “not a resident”. Similarly a student who goes to the mainland for any number of reasons will discover they have lost their residency as a result. We should welcome these family members home; we should not punish children who are ensnared in the tax situation of their parents.

HB-1488-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2022 1:33:55 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2022 12:30:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Remote Testimony Requested |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Samantha Gomes | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Aloha,

Today I write in support of HB 1488 RELATING TO RESIDENCE FOR TUITION PURPOSES. I also believe that simplifying the residency determination would reduce barriers to local students enrolling at UH to pursue additional education and training.

Mahalo,

Samantha Gomes

HB-1488-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2022 7:17:40 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2022 12:30:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Remote Testimony Requested |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Barbara Cigainero | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

.Dear Committe Chair and Members: Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 1488. This bill would provide for returning graduates of Hawaiian high schools who had left Hawaii for the mainland, an opportunity to return home and attend college in Hawaii as in-state students. I believe that this bill will help to reverse some of the loss of young people from out economy. When former residents return to the islands they bring with them a hope to contribute to the growth and development of their homeland. Let's do the smart thing and capitalize on this commitment by making college tuition affordable.

Mahalo for your consideration. Barbara Cigainero, Keaau, HI 96749