



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

**Date:** 02/22/2022

**Time:** 10:00 AM

**Location:** CR 211 & Videoconference

**Committee:** Senate Ways and Means

**Department:** Education

**Person Testifying:** Keith T. Hayashi, Interim Superintendent of Education

**Title of Bill:** SB 3184, SD1 RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII RESIDENT TUITION FEE.

**Purpose of Bill:** Expands the criteria to qualify for resident tuition fees to include high school seniors and recent high school graduates. Requires the adult or minor student to receive their high school or diploma within twelve months of the first day of official instruction. (SD1)

**Department's Position:**

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) supports SB 3184, SD 1.

Simplifying the residency determination for Hawaii's high school students and graduates increases access to post-secondary education. The Department identifies nearly 3,600 students in unstable housing across the State who fall within the group this bill targets. This bill has the potential to positively impact the future of these students as well as other students facing challenges in determining Hawaii residency who wish to pursue higher education within the University of Hawaii system.

The Department further supports this measure as it aligns to state goals to increase the college-going rate following high school graduation. Increasing access to post-secondary education for all students is also part of a larger collaborative effort in workforce development, as a significant number of jobs, particularly those affording a living wage, require post-secondary 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 SB 3184, SD 1.



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

---

Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
Tuesday, February 22, 2022, at 10:00 a.m.

By

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

SB 3184 SD1 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII RESIDENT TUITION FEE

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on SB 3184 SD1 relating to expanding the criteria to qualify for resident tuition fees to include high school seniors and recent high school graduates. The University of Hawai'i (UH) supports this bill.

An educated citizenry is a foundation for a strong state, and as the sole provider of public education in the State of Hawai'i, UH seeks to reduce barriers to attendance by streamlining application processes for residents, especially recent high school graduates. The complexity of determining resident status for tuition purposes often creates one such barrier for our students. Focusing on being physically present in the State for the previous twelve (12) consecutive months prior to the start of the semester or term, and not being claimed as a dependent by the student's parents or guardians who are nonresidents of the State, helps simplify the process. The requirement that the student be enrolled in a Hawai'i high school for at least twelve consecutive months and receiving a Hawai'i high school diploma helps streamline the process for young people who are experiencing homelessness and/or those with complex family circumstances.

Hawai'i's "college-going rate" of public high school graduates declined during the pandemic, dropping from 55% enrolling immediately after high school graduation (Class of 2019) to 50% (Class of 2020). The decline in college-going rates disproportionately affected lower-income, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander graduates. Among Hawai'i high school graduates, 37% fewer applied for UH Community Colleges during the pandemic (2021 compared with 2019), and fewer of the pandemic-disrupted graduating class enrolled in community colleges across Hawai'i's high school graduates and high school graduates nationally. This may be attributed to 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 communicates the State's investment in graduates' continuing their education and training at UH.

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



# Kamehameha Schools®

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Date: February 22, 2022

Where: Conference Room 211

## TESTIMONY

By Dr. Wai‘ale‘ale Sarsona

Kamehameha Schools

**RE: SB 3184, SD1, Relating to the University of Hawai‘i Resident Tuition Fee**

E ka Luna Ho‘omalu Dela Cruz, ka Hope Luna Ho‘omalu Keith-Agaran, a me nā lālā o ke Kōmike o nā Loa‘a a me nā Ho‘olilo o ka ‘Aha Kenekoa, aloha kākou! My name is Dr. Wai‘ale‘ale Sarsona, Vice President of Hi‘ialo at Kamehameha Schools.

Kamehameha Schools **supports** SB 3184, SD1, which expands the criteria to qualify for resident tuition fees to include high school seniors and recent high school graduates. This measure also requires the adult or minor student to receive their high school or diploma within twelve months of the first day of official instruction.

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.**