



UNIVERSITY
of HAWAII®
SYSTEM

**House Committee on Finance
Thursday, March 30, 2023, 2:00 p.m.**

Testimony by:

Jamie Go, Interim Executive Administrator and Secretary of the Board of Regents

**S.B. No. 1413, S.D. 2, H.D. 1 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII
RESIDENT TUITION FEE.**

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and members of the Committee:

The Board of Regents of the University of Hawai'i (Board) supports the intent of S.B. No. 1413 S.D. 2, H.D. 1, which would afford resident tuition eligibility status to graduates of a Hawai'i high school enrolling at any campus of the University of Hawai'i if certain conditions are met.

Providing Hawai'i residents with increased opportunities to pursue post-high school education and training is in the best interest of the State. Simplifying the process for determining resident tuition eligibility at the University of Hawai'i by using graduation from a high school within the State as a defining factor assists in reducing barriers local students may face when enrolling at the State's sole provider of post-secondary public education. It also streamlines the University of Hawaii's application process thereby allowing a more seamless transition between secondary and post-secondary education. As such, the Board supports the intent of this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of the intent of S.B. No. 1413, S.D. 2, H.D. 1.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

Legislative Testimony

Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Finance
Thursday, March 30, 2023, at 2:00 p.m.

By

Debora Halbert
Vice President for Academic Strategy
University of Hawai'i System

SB 1413 SD2 HD1 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII RESIDENT TUITION FEE

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Senate Bill (SB) 1413 SD2 HD1 relating to the University of Hawai'i resident tuition fee.

SB 1413 SD2 HD1 would allow individuals who graduated from a Hawai'i high school within ten years prior to starting their higher education with University of Hawai'i (UH) to be classified as residents for in-state tuition at the UH. In addition, the bill simplifies residency determination for high school students and recent graduates who are homeless and/or have complex family circumstances. As the sole provider of public higher education in the State of Hawai'i and in recognizing that an educated citizenry is the foundation for a strong state, UH supports this bill which will assist with increasing access to higher education and attempts to streamline the application process for residents, especially recent high school graduates.

Hawai'i's "college-going rate" of high school graduates declined during the pandemic, dropping from 55% enrolling immediately after high school graduation to 51%. The decline in college-going rates to UH disproportionately affected low-income, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander graduates. While some decline may be attributed to the uncertainties the current health pandemic created in the lives of our students, as UH moves forward, we must do so in ways that streamline the transition from high school to college as much as possible.

The proposed duration that the resident rate would be available to prospective students makes higher education accessible for a longer period after high school completion. Additionally, using graduation from a high school in the State of Hawai'i as a determining factor simplifies the residency process and would reduce barriers to local students enrolling at UH to pursue additional education and training.

As currently drafted, for residents who may have left the State and decided to return for any variety of reasons within ten years after graduating from a Hawai'i high school, this bill would allow them a faster transition to higher education for up-skilling or pursuing a different career without delaying pursuit of their educational and life goals. This revision could serve as an incentive for residents who moved away to return in pursuit of higher education at an affordable cost, further contributing to Hawai'i's local economy and addressing the brain drain that occurs when students leave for college and do not return.

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

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR



KEITH T. HAYASHI
SUPERINTENDENT

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
KA 'OIHANA HO'ONA'AUAO
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

Date: 03/30/2023

Time: 02:00 PM

Location: 308 VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Committee: House Finance

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: SB 1413, SD2, HD1 RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII RESIDENT TUITION FEE.

Purpose of Bill: Requires the University of Hawaii to grant resident tuition fees for enrollment at any University of Hawaii campus to individuals who have graduated from a Hawaii high school and are enrolling in an undergraduate degree program, under certain conditions. Effective 6/30/3000. (HD1)

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) supports SB 1413, SD2, HD1, as it supports the newly approved Hawaii State Board of Education Strategic Plan.

SB 1413, SD2, HD1, allows the University of Hawaii (University) to recognize Hawaii's high school graduates as residents for the purpose of University tuition. Determining residency based on high school graduation would streamline the processes for high school seniors and graduates to continue their education and training beyond high school at the resident tuition rate for the University's baccalaureate campuses and community colleges. Simplifying the residency determination for Hawaii's high school students and graduates increases students' access to post-secondary education.

The Department is partnering with the University to encourage more high school graduates to pursue post-secondary education and training and defers to the University on the specifics of residency determination.

Increasing students' access to post-secondary education is part of a larger collaborative workforce development effort since a significant number of jobs, particularly those affording a living wage, require post-secondary credentials.

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