

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



GOV. MSG. NO. 1238

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
KE KE'ENA O KE KIA'ĀINA

May 30, 2025

The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate,
and Members of the Senate
Thirty-Third State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 409
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

The Honorable Nadine Nakamura
Speaker, and Members of the
House of Representatives
Thirty-Third State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 431
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Aloha President Kouchi, Speaker Nakamura, and Members of the Legislature:

This is to inform you that on May 30, 2025, the following bill was signed into law:

H.B. NO. 1170, H.D. 1,
S.D. 1, C.D. 1

RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII
RESIDENT TUITION FEE.
ACT 138

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Josh Green M.D." in a cursive style.

Josh Green, M.D.
Governor, State of Hawai'i

Approved by the Governor

on MAY 30 2025

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE, 2025
STATE OF HAWAII

ACT 138
H.B. NO. 1170
H.D. 1
S.D. 1
C.D. 1

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII RESIDENT TUITION FEE.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that facilitating
2 postsecondary education and training for all interested high
3 school graduates is a matter of statewide concern.
4 Postsecondary options assist graduates by preparing them for
5 jobs and career pathways that typically pay higher wages, which
6 enables them to achieve their educational and career goals and
7 afford the State's high cost of living. Increased enrollment
8 and completion of postsecondary education and training will
9 increase the State's human capital.

10 The legislature further finds that the university of Hawaii
11 amended its administrative rules to streamline the enrollment
12 process for all applicants for admission into the university of
13 Hawaii system; however, the current statutory requirements
14 regarding residency for tuition purposes pose challenges for
15 some local graduating high school seniors or recent graduates.
16 Specifically, some students experiencing homelessness have
17 difficulty providing evidence of bona fide residency as required



1 by statute, and students who have complex family situations may
2 be incorrectly considered nonresidents. The legislature further
3 finds that recognizing local high school graduates as residents
4 to qualify for resident tuition fees would facilitate the
5 enrollment of these students at one of the university of
6 Hawaii's campuses.

7 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to simplify the
8 residency determination for the State's high school graduates to
9 enroll in postsecondary education and training at the university
10 of Hawaii by considering graduates of the State's high schools
11 to be residents for tuition purposes.

12 SECTION 2. Section 304A-402, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
13 amended to read as follows:

14 "[~~+~~]**\$304A-402**[~~+~~] **Residence for tuition purposes; basic**
15 **rule.** The board of regents shall adopt the necessary rules
16 defining residence for tuition purposes herein; provided that
17 the basic rule shall be that a student shall qualify for the
18 resident tuition fee only if [~~the following criteria are met~~]:

19 (1) Both the following criteria are met:

20 [~~+~~] (A) The adult student, or in the case of a
21 minor student, the student's parents or



1 guardians, has or have been a bona fide resident
2 of this State for at least twelve consecutive
3 months next preceding the student's first day of
4 officially scheduled instruction for any semester
5 or term in which the student is enrolling at the
6 particular college or campus; and
7 ~~[(+2)]~~ (B) The adult or minor student has not been
8 claimed as a dependent for tax purposes for at
9 least twelve months next preceding the student's
10 first day of officially scheduled instruction for
11 any semester or term in which the student is
12 enrolling at the particular college or campus by
13 the student's parents or guardians who are
14 nonresidents of the State; provided that this
15 provision shall not apply in cases where the
16 parent claiming the student as a dependent is
17 entitled to do so under a child support order or
18 agreement issued or entered into in conjunction
19 with a divorce proceeding or legal separation
20 agreement and the other parent and the student



1 meet the criteria set forth in [~~paragraph (1).~~]
2 subparagraph (A); or
3 (2) The adult or minor student:
4 (A) Graduated from a high school in the State within
5 two years preceding the student's first day of
6 officially scheduled instruction for any semester
7 or term in which the student is enrolling at the
8 particular college or campus; and
9 (B) Will enroll in an undergraduate degree program."

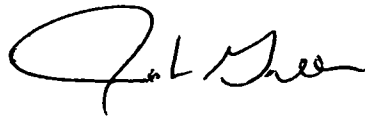
10 SECTION 3. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
11 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

12 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2025.



H.B. NO. 1170
H.D. 1
S.D. 1
C.D. 1

APPROVED this 30th day of May, 2025

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Ike' followed by a stylized flourish.

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF HAWAII

HB No. 1170, HD 1, SD 1, CD 1

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF HAWAII

Date: April 30, 2025
Honolulu, Hawaii

We hereby certify that the above-referenced Bill on this day passed Final Reading in the House of Representatives of the Thirty-Third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2025.



Nadine K. Nakamura
Speaker
House of Representatives




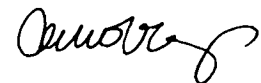
Brian L. Takeshita
Chief Clerk
House of Representatives

THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF HAWAI‘I

Date: April 30, 2025
Honolulu, Hawai‘i 96813

We hereby certify that the foregoing Bill this day passed Final Reading in the Senate
of the Thirty-Third Legislature of the State of Hawai‘i, Regular Session of 2025.


President of the Senate


Clerk of the Senate