

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

309

Honolulu, Hawaii

**FEB 10**, 2025

RE: H.B. No. 443  
H.D. 1

Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura  
Speaker, House of Representatives  
Thirty-Third State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2025  
State of Hawaii

Madame:

Your Committee on Higher Education, to which was referred  
H.B. No. 443 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT  
HILO,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to appropriate funds for one  
retention coordinator position, one internship coordinator  
position, and student enrollment management initiatives at the  
University of Hawaii at Hilo.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure  
from the University of Hawai'i at Hilo and Hawai'i Island Chamber  
of Commerce.

Your Committee finds that the University of Hawaii at Hilo is  
experiencing a declining enrollment rate. University of Hawaii at  
Hilo officials have cited the school's limited brand exposure  
outside of Hawaii, difficulty retaining students from the  
mainland, and an increase in online educational opportunities as  
factors contributing to the school's enrollment issues. Your  
Committee further finds that funding for positions and initiatives  
directly related to addressing student enrollment are vital to  
ensuring that the school has the necessary staff and resources to  
retain students and increase enrollment.

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Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Changing the appropriations to unspecified amounts; and
- (2) Changing the effective date to July 1, 3000, to encourage further discussion.

Your Committee respectfully requests your Committee on Finance, should it deliberate on this measure, to consider appropriating \$507,500 for fiscal year 2025-2026 and \$790,000 for fiscal year 2026-2027 for the University of Hawaii at Hilo, as follows:

- (1) \$37,500 for fiscal year 2025-2026 and \$75,000 for fiscal year 2026-2027 for a retention coordinator;
- (2) \$37,500 for fiscal year 2025-2026 and \$75,000 for fiscal year 2026-2027 for an internship coordinator; and
- (3) \$432,500 for fiscal year 2025-2026 and \$640,000 for fiscal year 2026-2027 for student enrollment management initiatives.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Higher Education that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 443, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 443, H.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Finance.

Respectfully submitted on  
behalf of the members of the  
Committee on Higher Education,



ANDREW TAKUYA GARRETT, Chair



HSR 209

Bill/Resolution No.: <b>HB443</b>	Committee Referral: <b>HED, FIN</b>	Date: <b>02.05.2025</b>		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on the measure.				
The recommendation is to: <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended (as is) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments (HD) <input type="checkbox"/> Hold <input type="checkbox"/> Pass short form bill with HD to recommit for future public hearing (recommit)				
HED Members	Ayes	Ayes (WR)	Nays	Excused
1. GARRETT, Andrew Takuya (C)	✓			
2. AMATO, Terez (VC)	✓			
3. EVSLIN, Luke A.	✓			
4. KAPELA, Jeanne	✓			
5. KILA, Darius K.	✓			
6. LA CHICA, Trish	✓			
7. OLDS, Ikaika	✓			
8. SAYAMA, Jackson D.	✓			
9. WOODSON, Justin H.	✓			
10. MURAOKA, Christopher L.	✓			
11. SOUZA, Kanani	✓			
<b>TOTAL (11)</b>	<b>11</b>			
The recommendation is: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted If joint referral, _____ did not support recommendation. <div style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">committee acronym(s)</div>				
Vice Chair's or designee's signature: _____				
Distribution: Original (White) – Committee      Duplicate (Yellow) – Chief Clerk's Office      Duplicate (Pink) – HMSO				