

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 18 2025RE: H.B. No. 1171
H.D. 2

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Thirty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2025
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Higher Education, to which was referred
H.B. No. 1171, H.D. 2, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII
RELIEF FUNDING,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to authorize the
Board of Regents to use funds in the University of Hawaii Tuition
and Fees Special Fund for student aid in direct response to an
emergency or disaster, as declared by the Governor.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure
from the University of Hawai'i System and University of Hawai'i
Student Caucus.

Your Committee finds that each University of Hawaii campus
has institutional funds available for students facing emergencies
and crises. Your Committee further finds that these funds are
noted on a student's account, which may cause the reduction or
reversal of previously awarded scholarships or other forms of
financial aid, leaving the student feeling penalized for receiving
relief funds, which undermines the purpose of providing assistance
in difficult times. Your Committee also finds that allocating
existing institutional funds specifically for disaster relief
exempts these funds from being classified as financial assistance
noted on a student's account. This measure will enable the



University of Hawaii to offer financial support to students without adverse effects, improving student retention and overall student success.

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. 1171, H.D. 2, and recommends that it pass Second Reading and be referred to your Committee on Ways and Means.

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



DONNA MERCADO KIM, Chair



