

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

408

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 11 , 2025

RE: H.B. No. 542
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. 542 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII
PROMISE PROGRAM,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to expand and appropriate
funds for the Hawaii Promise Program to provide scholarships to
qualified students enrolled at any University of Hawaii campus,
rather than just community college campuses.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure
from the University of Hawai'i System; University of Hawaii
Professional Assembly; University of Hawai'i Student Caucus; and
two individuals.

Your Committee finds that the cost of attendance continues to
be a significant barrier for many of the State's residents in
pursuing higher education. In response, the University of Hawaii
implemented the Hawaii Promise Program to provide need-based
awards intended to be applied toward the unmet need of qualified
students enrolled at any community college campus of the
University of Hawaii. This measure will expand the Hawaii Promise
Program to provide scholarships for the unmet needs of qualified
undergraduate students enrolled at any four-year University of

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Hawaii campus, thereby increasing the number of students who enroll and earn degrees to prepare them for success in the workforce and their communities.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Changing the effective date to July 1, 3000, to encourage further discussion; and
- (2) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

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. 542, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 542, 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



