

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 14 2025

RE: S.B. No. 636  
S.D. 1

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  
S.B. No. 636 entitled:

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

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to appropriate  
funds to the University of Hawaii to establish the following at  
the University of Hawaii at Hilo (UH Hilo):

- (1) One full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) Retention Coordinator  
position;
- (2) One full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) Internship  
Coordinator position; and
- (3) Student enrollment management initiatives.

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

Your Committee finds that UH Hilo has suffered from declining  
enrollment rates for three consecutive years for a myriad of  
reasons, including its limited brand exposure outside of the State  
resulting in difficulty in retaining students from the mainland  
and an increase in online educational opportunities. Your



Committee finds that funding positions and initiatives at UH Hilo is vital to ensuring that the school has the necessary staff and resources to retain students and bolster enrollment. This measure invests in positions and initiatives at UH Hilo to address student enrollment and retention.

Your Committee notes that it is unfeasible for UH Hilo to sustain the positions and initiatives requested in this measure with regular legislative appropriations, and recommends that UH Hilo reinvest any additional tuition revenue generated from increased student enrollment and retention to support the requested positions and initiatives. Your Committee believes that the Legislature should revisit this issue, including considering using lapsed funds for a performance-based budget from UH900.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Changing the appropriations to unspecified amounts;
- (2) Inserting an effective date of July 31, 2050, to encourage further discussion; and
- (3) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

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 S.B. No. 636, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 636; S.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Ways and Means.

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



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DONNA MERCADO KIM, Chair



The Senate  
Thirty-Third Legislature  
State of Hawai'i

**Record of Votes**  
**Committee on Higher Education**  
**HRE**

Bill / Resolution No.:*	Committee Referral:	Date:
<b>SB 636</b>	<b>HRE, WAM</b>	<b>2/11/2025</b>

The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure.  
If so, then the previous decision was to: \_\_\_\_\_

The Recommendation is:

Pass, unamended 2312    
 Pass, with amendments 2311    
 Hold 2310    
 Recommit 2313

Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
KIM, Donna Mercado (C)	✓			
KIDANI, Michelle N. (VC)	✓			
FUKUNAGA, Carol	✓			
HASHIMOTO, Troy N.	✓			
FEVELLA, Kurt				✓
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4</b>			<b>1</b>

Recommendation:  Adopted      Not Adopted

Chair's or Designee's Signature:  
*Michelle N. Kidani*

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\*Only one measure per Record of Votes