

LATE

Written Only

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



KEITH T. HAYASHI
INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

Date: 04/08/2022

Time: 10:40 AM

Location: CR 211 & Videoconference

Committee: Senate Ways and Means

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Interim Superintendent Keith Hayashi
Hawaii State Department of Education

Title of Bill: HB 1488, HD1, SD1 RELATING TO RESIDENCE FOR TUITION PURPOSES.

Purpose of Bill: Requires the tuition residency rules for the University of Hawaii to grant the resident tuition fee for enrollment at any University of Hawaii campus, including any community college, to individuals who have obtained a Hawaii high school diploma or equivalent credential and are working toward an undergraduate degree, under certain conditions. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD1)

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) supports HB 1488, HD1, SD1.

Simplifying the residency determination for admission into the University of Hawaii (UH) system will positively impact students who wish to pursue higher education within the UH system and reduce barriers students may face when applying to UH. Further, extending the resident tuition fee at any UH campus to individuals who earn a Hawaii high school diploma or equivalent credential, including those who initially enroll in an out-of-state institution of higher education but later return to Hawaii to complete their undergraduate studies, increases access to postsecondary education in-state.

Increasing access to postsecondary education for all students is in alignment with a larger collaborative effort in workforce development, as a significant number of jobs,

particularly those affording a living wage, require postsecondary credentials.

The Department defers to the University of Hawaii on the implementation of these changes.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this measure.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

LATE

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Friday, April 8, 2022, at 10:40 a.m.

By
Hae K. Okimoto, Associate President for Student Affairs
University of Hawai'i System

HB 1488 HD1 SD1 – RELATING TO RESIDENCE FOR TUITION PURPOSES

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill (HB) 1488 House Draft (HD) 1 Senate Draft (SD) 1 relating to residence for tuition purposes. The University of Hawai'i (UH) strongly supports the bill.

HB 1488 HD1 SD1 would recognize graduates of Hawai'i high schools or high school equivalency programs as residents for the purpose of in-state tuition at the UH. HB 1488 HD1 SD1 would recognize local graduates as residents for in-state tuition at UH for up to two years following high school graduation.

UH recommends that the bill become effective upon the Governor's signature so that the changes may benefit the high school graduating class of 2022.

UH believes that simplifying the determination of residency would reduce barriers to local students enrolling at UH to pursue additional education and training. In addition, the bill simplifies the residency determination for high school student and recent graduates who are homeless and/or have complex family circumstances.

Hawaii's "college going rate" of high school graduates declined during the pandemic, dropping from 55% enrolling immediately after high school graduation to 50%. The decline in college going rates to UH disproportionately affected low income, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander graduates, and college going to community colleges dropped nearly 25% from Class of 2019 to Class of 2021. This may be attributed to the added uncertainties that the current health pandemic has created in the lives of our students. Recognizing Hawai'i's high school graduates as Hawai'i residents enrolling at UH communicates the value that the state places on investing in graduates' continuing their education and training and streamlines the process of admission to UH.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this measure.

LATE

HB-1488-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/7/2022 2:51:25 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/8/2022 10:40:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Renee Rabb	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB1488, which expands the number of people who can qualify for resident tuition at colleges and universities. Education needs to be affordable. Hawaii needs as many educated people as we can get. This is a win-win.

Mahalo,

Renee Rabb

Keaau, Hi 96749

LATE

HB-1488-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/7/2022 3:00:19 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/8/2022 10:40:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Barbara Cigainero	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Committee Chair and Members: Thank you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of HB 1488. This bill would allow Hawaiian High School graduate that move to the Mainland and then return to be able to attend college and pay in-state tuition. We see many of our youth leave the state with dreams and ideas (the grass is greener syndrome). For those that return to Hawaii, having to pay out-of-state tuition can be discouraging. This bill offers an incentive for youth to return and to be able to afford to realize their dreams and put them to work in our state.

Thank you for your consideration of this bill. Barbara Cigainero, Keaau, HI 96749

LATE

HB-1488-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/7/2022 5:18:46 PM
Testimony for WAM on 4/8/2022 10:40:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
John Leong	Testifying for Kupu	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Honorable Members of the Committee on Ways and Means,

It is my pleasure to testify in support of H.B. 1488 H.D. 1 S.D. 1. As written, this bill would simplify residency requirements for certain populations, including those participating in alternative diploma programs as well as homeless students.

Founded in 2007 as a youth-conservation nonprofit, much of Kupu's focus has been on providing early career and service opportunities for young adults in conservation and natural resource management. In doing this work, we saw that one of the biggest barriers to a high-paying career in a green collar job is the lack of a high school diploma. Accordingly, since 2009, Kupu has been helping young people through our alternative diploma program.

In running this program for the past 13 years, we have seen unsheltered students and others in very difficult situations overcome major barriers in order to graduate from our program. It is tragic to see some of these students, finally ready to attend college, but unable to determine how to navigate the residency process due to the lack of an address or other issues, despite their completing an alternative diploma program here in Hawai'i. We commend the legislature for considering how to help these students and other students better themselves through higher learning at the university.

Please pass HB 1488 HD1 SD1.

Mahalo,

John Leong

CEO and Co-Founder, Kupu

LATE

HB-1488-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2022 5:29:16 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/8/2022 10:40:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
P Hauoli'ipo Wright	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SD1, but was specifically writing to support SD2:

- [HB1488 HD1 SD2](#): College Resident Tuition. This bill will give Hawaii high school graduates 2 years (latest provision) to return to Hawaii for an Undergraduate Degree and still claim in state tuition if they take steps to reestablish residency in Hawaii.

I could not find an option to lend my testimony toward that edition of this bill, so I'm hoping this testimony will suffice for both. This added language for SD2 will help so many of our loved ones to come home to learn and contribute to our community. We can't fault them for accepting more affordable and sometimes more estimable opportunities outside our state, and need to welcome them home as if they never left.

HB-1488-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2022 8:47:57 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/8/2022 10:40:00 AM

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
judith haney	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This would help keep many of our students here at home to become productive workers

HB-1488-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2022 9:23:39 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/8/2022 10:40:00 AM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael Mentnech	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The Dream Factory:

If you add up all the things that a college is, they can all be summed up as one thing, it is a Dream Factory. Education is the single most important asset anyone can have to make their dreams come true. Hawaii has done an excellent job in creating the University Of Hawaii system to insure that the coming generations can achieve their lifetime goals, and dreams. The term “ Brain Drain” has been bandied about for over fifty years that I know of. It was part of the discussion when Governor Burns was backing UH Hilo.

This bill welcomes back some of our brightest young people who have experienced the mainland, and want to come home and continue their education. With the popularity of “ Gap Years” where young people take a year of to experience different places, assess their goals in life, and in some cases earn enough money to afford college. UH tuition policy should adapt to this reality that exists today.

However **the addition of a two year window makes this bill practically worthless** because someone who attends a two year community college would be excluded.

1. a person who attends a private college with no residency tuition would not be excluded. It is a case of untended consequences. If you can afford a private school you can return to Hawaii and get resident tuition, if you attend publicly funded universities the purpose of which is to make higher education available to the less affluent you cannot. Residency should remain vested for eight years.

Being a Hawaii resident offers a fifty percent discount to resident students to make college affordable, which is a great investment in the future. Unfortunately there are a few loop holes in determining residency which need to be addressed. A child who was born and raised in Hawaii, perhaps has never even left the state can still be called a “non resident”. If an absent parent living on the mainland is claiming a child as a dependant on his taxes that child is “not a resident”. Similarly a student who goes to the mainland for any number of reasons will discover they have lost their residency as a result. We should welcome these family members home; we should not punish children who are ensnared in the tax situation of their parents.

LATE

HB-1488-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2022 10:32:02 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/8/2022 10:40:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Julia Lindbergh	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in favor of this bill. Thank you very much. Julia Lindbergh, RN